WEEKEND EDITION

Santa Monica Daily Press

November 12-13, 2005 | A newspaper with issues | Volume 4, Issue 244

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO
5 7 21 30 34
Meganumber: 24
Jackpot: $7 Million

FANTASY 5
3 7 15 31 38

DAILY 3
Daytime: 2 6 1
Evening: 8 2 3

DAILY DERBY
1st: 08 Gorgeous George
2nd: 01 Gold Rush
3rd: 11 Money Bags

RACE TIME: 1:44.72

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site: http://www.calottery.com



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

In September, after law enforcement officers in North Carolina spotted a reportedly stolen ambulance and chased it through three counties until forcing it into a ditch north of Greensboro, they found the driver to be mohawk-hairstyled Leon Hollimon Jr., 37, who is not a medical professional but was wearing a stethoscope and with latex gloves in his pocket. Strapped to a gurney in the back was a dead six-point deer, and according to witnesses cited by the Florida Times-Union newspaper (Hollimon is from Jacksonville, Fla.), an intravenous line was attached to it and a defibrillator had been used.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 316th day of 2005.
There are 49 days left in the year.

In 1815, American suffragist Elizabeth Cady Stanton was born in Johnstown, N.Y.
In 1929, Grace Kelly — the future movie star and Princess of Monaco — was born in Philadelphia.

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Ryan Hyatt/Daily Press

Children get an early start reveling in the new Virginia Avenue Park, which recently received a $13 million renovation and expansion. The new and improved version officially opens to the public on Saturday.

Virginia Avenue Park set to open

BY RYAN HYATT
Daily Press Staff Writer

VIRGINIA AVENUE PARK — Residents are confident a $13 million expansion and renovation to one of the largest parks in Santa Monica is going to pay off.

The new and improved Virginia Avenue Park, set to open on Saturday, has been buzzing with activity all week, as construction crews make last-minute improve-

See **PARK PLACE**, page 16

Promenade vending cart probe rolls along

PRI denies retaliatory practices, says employee was threatened

BY RYAN HYATT
Daily Press Staff Writer

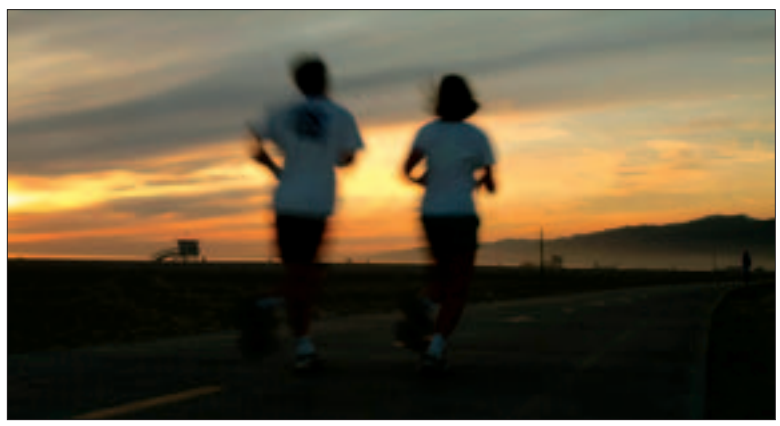
THIRD STREET — Allegations of retaliatory practices by the Promenade's new vending cart operator have elected leaders considering breaking the contract with the company.

The Santa Monica City Council this week asked city staff to continue an investigation to determine whether the new vending cart program operator, Provenzano Resources, Inc. (PRI), breached its contract. The firm allegedly retaliated against some outspoken cart operators by rejecting their applications to be part of the new program.

In addition, the City Council asked City Attorney Marsha Moutrie to consider whether City Hall might buy out the contract with PRI and manage the Promenade vending cart program itself. Some City Council members felt the allegations suggest that aspects of the new program aren't in line with what they feel are appropriate business practices for Santa Monica and its contractors.

See **CART CASE**, page 18

Run its course



Derek Goes/Special to the Daily Press

Joggers seemingly chase the setting sun recently on Santa Monica Beach.

LOCAL

Cops comb the area after shots ring out

By Daily Press staff

PICO NEIGHBORHOOD — At least one man was injured in what police were calling a likely drive-by shooting along 12th Street on Friday night.

Residents reported hearing four shots ring out at around 8:20 p.m., and seeing a man, presumably shot in the shoulder, wander back into his home before police arrived and he was taken to a local hospital.

"We heard four shots and ran outside," said Barry Barker, a resident. "Then we heard yelling and a bunch of commotion."

By 9:30 p.m., residents had spilled outdoors to see that a stretch of 12th Street had been cordoned off by police, who were combing the neighborhood house-by-house in search of leads.

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Santa Monica Daily Press



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS The stars show the kind of day you'll Have:
★★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★-Positive ★★★-Average ★★-So-so ★-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ Pressure builds, but the Moon in your sign emphasizes your assets. You seem organized, bright and full of ideas. Others want to join in on whatever plans you cook up. Expect to be surrounded by your pals and loved ones. Tonight: Add in music, and you might have a party.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Know when you need to take a timeout. In fact, today is the perfect time to take off and do what you have wanted to do for a long time. Imagine — a day just for you. Grin away and do your thing. Tonight: You only have to answer to yourself.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Sometimes you might not know where and what you want to do or with whom. Your best bet is to be with friends, and everything else will naturally fall into place. What might seem like an unusual adventure could be quite exciting. Tonight: Enjoy every moment.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You have a way of dancing through problems, but you need to take responsibility for what you might have created. Bring friends and family together. What at first appears to be a responsibility could become a lot of fun. Tonight: You are in the limelight, like it or not.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Someone might really need your time and attention. On the other hand, you are up for an adventure. Invite this person to join you in exploring a new part of town or taking in an art exhibit. Tonight: Different works.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Make a point to slow down and spend quality time with those in your life. You might spend time with one person or many. Just don't group people together right now. Express your vulnerabilities. Tonight: Make it a cozy night for two.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You will like what happens if you sort through your invitations and choose who, where and what. Your popularity soars. A serious talk might be unavoidable, and not what you want. Infuse your energy and enthusiasm into a heavy situation. Tonight: Squeeze in as much as you can.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ You might be in the mood to get some fall projects done. How you feel might change dramatically as you clear out a task or two. Listen to your inner voice and make any additional plans. Surround yourself with music. Tonight: Don't push.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Listen to your sixth sense with a child or loved one. You know exactly what to say and do. You can turn someone's grumbling into a smile. Listen to a loved one; he or she needs to vent. Tonight: A movie or concert, where you don't have to talk.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ You might want and need to stay close to home. Invite others over rather than wander out. Truly, your home is your castle. Your ability to understand a partner helps make a situation lighter. Tonight: Add that extra touch.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Your mind might not be present, as you are into your imagination and full of daydreams. Every so often, a friend knocks on your door — listen. You don't want to be left out, do you? Flow with plans. Tonight: Happy wherever you are.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Others count on you to pull everything together. You simply might not be interested. A new purchase or going to a special place or restaurant fits your Saturday plans. Remember, you answer to yourself. Tonight: Treat yourself.

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LOCAL

Santa Monican to serve on mountains conservancy

By Daily Press staff

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed a Santa Monica resident to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy on Friday.

Jim Berkus, 59, will serve on the conservancy's board. He is currently the chairman of the United Talent Agency. He formed Leading Artists Agency in 1981 and served as president for 10 years. In 1991, Berkus merged Leading Artists with the Bauer Benedek Agency to form United Talent Agency where he continues to serve. The position does not require Senate confirmation and the compensation is $100 per diem. Berkus is a Democrat.

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy was established by the California State Legislature in 1980. Since that time, it has helped to preserve more than 55,000 acres of parkland in both wilderness and urban settings, and has improved more than 114 public recreational facilities throughout Southern California.

Through direct action, alliances, partnerships, and joint powers authorities, the conservancy's mission is to strategically buy back, preserve, protect, restore, and enhance pieces of Southern California to form an interlinking system of urban, rural and river parks, open space, trails, and wildlife habitats that are easily accessible to the general public.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Take a shot at protecting yourself this flu season

By Daily Press staff

Want a little extra help fighting the flu this season?

Community residents who want to protect themselves from this year's flu virus are encouraged to get vaccinated at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center's annual community flu-shot clinic on Tuesday, Nov. 15, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., at the Santa Monica Place Mall.

The medical center will be offering flu shots for $13 to anyone 18 or older who is not allergic to eggs or ill from a cold or flu. Members of the UCLA Healthcare 50-plus program will receive the shots at no cost.

The vaccinations will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis on the first level of the mall, which is located at Broadway and Fourth Street in Santa Monica. Reservations are not accepted. For information, call (800) 516-5323.

Red Cross hosts community meet-and-greet

By Daily Press staff

Get to know local Red Cross staff and volunteers at the American Red Cross of Santa Monica "Lets get to know each other" fete next week.

The community event will be held Monday, Nov. 14 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Monsoon Cafe, located at 1212 Third Street Promenade.

The mixer will enable Santa Monica citizens to meet and mingle with Santa Monica Red Cross representatives, many of whom were deployed to Florida, the Gulf Coast and Texas for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita disaster relief.

"This mixer is an opportunity to connect with some of the 1100 community members who came to the Red Cross to be trained in disaster preparedness and to volunteer locally as well as in the disaster zone," said Eric Faber, a member of the Santa Monica chapter's board of directors and organizer of the event.

In addition, members of the public can find out about Red Cross services and how the Red Cross would be of assistance in the event of a house or apartment fire, flood or major catastrophe such as a tsunami, earthquake or an extensive conflagration. Materials on how to prepare for a disaster will be available.

Free appetizers will be served compliments of the Monsoon Cafe and a cash bar

See **BRIEFS**, page 15

SURF REPORT

On Saturday a combo of NW and SW swells are due. The NW will be the dominant swell, and SW only minor in comparison. The NW is from a significant development we've been watching below the Bering Sea for about a week now. This system increased in strength, and will be bringing in some ground swell from around 290-300 degrees with 16-second periods. This system will remain at high enough latitudes to keep rain and wind swell from the region.

Today the water is:

64°

Write us at **alex@smdp.com**
and tell us what the surf is doing today at your local break.

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	**N/A**	**N/A**	**12:49**	**0.6**	**6:24**	**5.8**	**6:46**	**5.6**
SUNDAY	**12:31**	**0.8**	**1:34**	**-0.1**	**6:53**	**6.2**	**7:40**	**4.5**
MONDAY	1:05	1.2	2:17	-0.5	7:23	6.5	8:31	4.3
TUESDAY	1:37	1.6	2:59	-0.8	7:54	6.7	9:21	4.1
WEDNESDAY	2:08	2.0	3:40	-0.8	8:25	6.6	10:12	3.9

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The Q Line

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THE Q-LINE RESPONSES ARE IN!

WE HAVE THE QUESTIONS. YOU HAVE THE ANSWERS. CHECK OUT THIS WEEK'S Q-LINE RESPONSES ON PAGE 6.

EST. 1934 The Galley

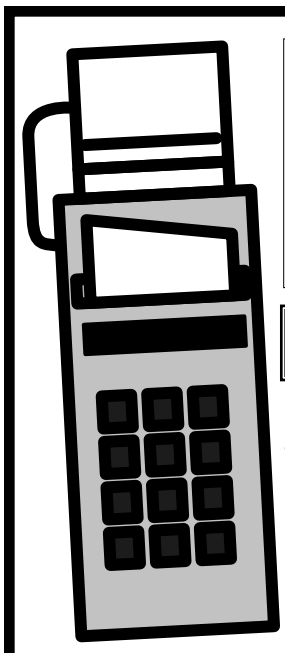
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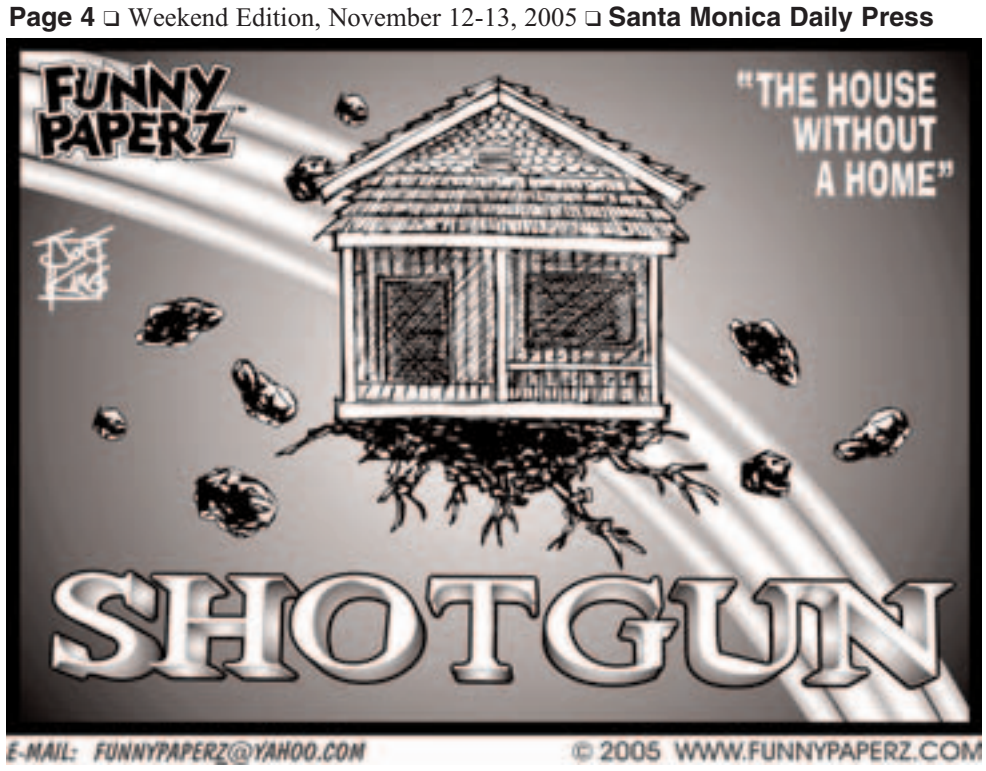


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The Q Line

Fried Shrimp, Broiled Shrimp, Shrimp Scampi ...

This past week, Q-line asked:

"What impact, if any, do think the opening of Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. on the pier will have?"

Here are your responses:

✆ "Now that the damage has been done, life will go on as usual. It always seems to. It's less than desirable but the powers that be have overwhelmed the popular vote as is usual these days."

✆ "The success of every restaurant depends on the restaurant's table and seating capacity and with good food, fair prices are capable of keeping these tables full during operating hours. The Santa Monica Pier is a habitat of various races and cultural individuals as well it should be. Whether they all enjoy shrimp will remain to be seen. I realize there was a quarrel between the DeSimone family and the city of Santa Monica that led to the closing of the Boathouse. Still, I do not believe that any local business people wanted to open a restaurant on the pier. Had they wanted to, they would have."

✆ "I think it's wonderful that we now have a Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. opening up on the pier. I used to be a landlord in this town of Santa Monica and I think it will be good because now I am in a convalescent hospital recovering quite nicely and I think our group would like to go there this coming week. So welcome to Santa Monica Bubba Gump. Also, maybe it will help with some revenue and the city can fix those freaking potholes."

✆ "After years have gone by, tons of money has been spent, headaches and typical bureaucratic problems with building and safety in Santa Monica, Bubba Gump has opened. Good for them, I wish them well. It's a sign to us all that you can actually make progress with City Hall if you don't give up. I'm just glad it opened as a nice, new establishment we can all use rather than a homeless shelter or low-income housing project which seem to be the focus these days in this town."

✆ "I think putting Bubba Gump Shrimp on the pier and taking away the previous restaurant that was there was one of the worst things that Santa Monica did for the city and it's obvious all they care about is revenue. Putting a chain on there, Bubba Gump, is not going to last long, it's going to be gone before we know it. It's not going to make any money, it's lame."

✆ "Santa Monica does need Bubba Gump. We do need more high-priced trendy chain stores, the city also needs more stupid politicians, more bums, more bus lanes, more roundabouts, and more speed bumps. There is a lot of things this city needs. In case anybody didn't realize it, I was being sarcastic."

✆ "It would depend on the quality of shrimp that was being offered by the chain."

✆ "Bubba Gump Shrimp is the one-way arrow that businesses in this town blessed by City Hall are going. Business chains more than double the tax revenue according to your paper. Example, Bubba Gump Shrimp. Why does City Hall want more business chains? More taxes. Why more taxes? So they can fund non-cost effective libraries, police departments, $120 million RAND Corp. properties, and low- income housing. Why low-income housing? Both rental and coming soon to a location near you, low- income ownership housing, because of new voters. In the movie 'Revenge of the Sith' Chancellor Palpatine says to soon-to-be Darth Vader 'Those who acquire power are fearful of losing it.' Words that our City Council lives by and for. Power over the unwashed masses is a potent wine. Few can resist the power to spend other people's money. Our City Council in its quest to bring Santa Monica up to the wreckage of Los Angeles has destroyed the small town beach atmosphere that Santa Monica once was and enjoyed. Darth Vader would be proud of you guys."

✆ "Bubba Gump restaurant fits in very well with the class of people who visit the pier. Tacky."

OPINION

Sorry, no *comprende*



MODERN TIMES

BY LLOYD GARVER

My column last week was motivated by my seeing a bumper sticker on a van that read, "Speak English or Die." I looked into the "English-only" movement, which is against having the government spend money on multilingual versions of things like voting and educational materials.

Prior to writing the column, I believed that many people hold sincere views that these multilingual publications represent an inappropriate use of public funds, as well as an incorrect message for immigrants who haven't learned English. I also felt that, considering all the current immigrant bashing, that some, yes just some, of the people who were for the "English-only" policies were people who felt some intolerance for immigrants and were just using this policy as a way to legitimize or mask their true feelings.

I received more e-mails in response to this column than to any of my previous columns. This even includes the column about "Spongebob Square Pants," which elicited a great number of e-mails because of the apparent controversy regarding the cartoon character's supposed subversive homosexuality.

The number of responses and their contents only confirmed my original views about this topic. Many people combined the English-only topic with their criticism of immigrants as "illegals," and as "people who are destroying our culture." Some of them magically see immigrants as simultaneously "too lazy to get jobs" and "stealing jobs from Americans."

I share some of the responses with you:

DEBORAH: "Why don't we start printing everything in Islam, too? Maybe we can make it easier for the terrorists — they won't have to learn English."

Deborah's title is executive assistant, Transport Security Administration, at a major airport.

AUDREY: "How dare you come into this country and insult the way we speak. Remember we belong here, you don't."

JP: "I think English as the only language serves a useful purpose, for instance, enabling the Mexican immigrant to order Chinese food."

ANN: "I think they should learn English because when they want to get a better job than working in Wal-Mart they will have to speak English."

BETTE: "Some of us had ancestors that were already here when settlers/immigrants came to this country, and most of mine would not have learned to speak English at all if 'non-native' people had not come to America. Without getting on a soapbox, I do think that many people that advocate English-only are forgetting that English is not the native language of this country, so perhaps a little tolerance wouldn't be such a bad thing."

RICHARD: "Get with the program called AMERICAN PRIDE. The Mexicans are taking this country from us liberal by liberal."

COURTNEY: "Have you ever considered that the immigrants themselves might do better in the long run if we stopped coddling them in their own languages?"

JOE: "There is a whole realm of sensitivity that has to go along with how we do this, bringing these kids into the public school system so they can be successful, without smashing the sense of self before they get there."

BRIAN: "I believe that if this trend continues, within 50 to 100 years we will have a secession movement in the Sun Belt states. After all, without assimilation, these Spanish-speakers could well identify themselves more closely with their counterparts in northern Mexico than with the old, cold rust belt. That being the case, I choose English-only."

ROBERT: "Friends of mine traveled all over Europe on vacation this summer. They went to France, Germany, Italy, Greece, and Spain over a three-week period and said they did not have any problems whatsoever with language because everyone spoke English. What they did find funny is that when they got home, they went down to Miami for dinner and had trouble because no one spoke English."

JULIE: "Where else in the world can you go and get all of your information in your native language? For my experience, only America! That is what makes our country so appealing. Easy, schmeezy."

MARK: "I know how we can stop the flow of illegals from Mexico. We need to allow border patrols to shoot on sight when they see a vehicle trying to cross the border illegally ... speak English or don't speak at all."

MARY: "I don't think that the inscription on the Statue of Liberty means, "Come on in, disregard and complain about everything you don't like here, expect everyone to change their ways to better suit you and if they don't you can file a discrimination lawsuit."

NANCY: "The kids of those Koreans you can't understand at the convenience store are going to kick your professional butts in a couple of years, in perfect English while playing the Polonaise on the piano and solving complex equations in their heads. And having that caliber of people will make America a better country."

(Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Frasier." He also has read many books, some in hardcover. He writes for CBSnews.com's opinion page and a weekly column for SportsLine.com. He can be reached at smdp@lloydgarver-moderntimes.com.)

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Santa Monica Daily Press

STATE

Pot sticklers: State nets twice as much as '04 tally

By The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — California authorities seized more than 1.1 million marijuana plants this year, a record haul that reflects a trend of drug cartels cultivating huge plantations on public land.

The amount seized was nearly twice that confiscated during last year's growing season, which typically ends in the fall, the attorney general's office said Thursday.

"Most of these large plantations are financed and organized and run by the large Mexican narco-trafficking rings," Attorney General Bill Lockyer said. "They're dangerous gangs of criminals that finance not just this, but methamphetamine labs and other criminal behavior."

Most of the marijuana was seized from illegal gardens planted on public land, Lockyer said. The emergence of national forests, wilderness areas and state and national parks as havens for pot growers has generated mounting concern in recent years over environmental destruction and public safety.

Teams of local, state and federal law enforcement officers conducted roughly the same number of raids on a similar number of gardens as they did last year, said James Parker, who heads the state's Campaign Against Marijuana Planting unit.

The higher number of plants taken this year reflects the size of the plantations. Officials said many plots are three to five times larger than those seen a decade ago. The greatest number of plants was taken from Shasta County, where officers confiscated more than 214,000.

Dam straight! State water agency proposes plan to alter delta flow

BY DON THOMPSON
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — The state Department of Water Resources proposed spending $110 million in an ambitious bid to solve some of the problems that have long plagued the vast waterway that supplies water to two-thirds of Californians.

Four lengthy steel gates would cut across sections of the southern Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and rise like drawbridges to alter the delta's flow, according to the proposal released Thursday. The gates would act like temporary dams, rising behind tides surging up river from the San Francisco Bay to raise the water level along some reaches of the delta.

The gates would remain up for months at a time, forming pools that would provide more water for pumping to Central Valley farmers. The pools also would supply cities with cleaner drinking water because of the continual inflow of non-salty river water.

Each of the gates would be set into action by giant hinges placed on the bottom of the river and would span more than 100 feet. Water officials try to create similar conditions now by building temporary barriers of rock that are dumped into the delta and then removed on a periodic basis.

"They've never really been used like this in a tidal environment anywhere in the world," project manager Paul Marshall said of the steel gates.

The design was chosen because the barriers can be lowered out of the way of boat traffic. A different design is used for a similar barrier in a channel of Suisun Bay.

Department scientists said the pools behind the dams would have lower salinity and higher oxygen content. Both conditions would benefit freshwater fish as well as those who drink the water, agency officials said.

Agency officials want to decide quickly about whether they can install the barriers, which could be in place by 2009. Eight public hearings are planned, with a Feb. 7 deadline for public comment.

They delayed until next year public hearings on the more controversial question of whether the higher water levels should allow increased pumping to cities and farmers.

In part, that is to let scientists continue studying whether the pumping would hurt four species of fish that are considered indicators of the delta's overall environmental health.

"We would only increase the export when it is environmentally safe to do it," said Katherine Kelly, who heads the department's Bay-Delta Office.

The pumping could be far greater and the impact on fish more severe than the department acknowledges, said Barry Nelson, a senior policy analyst with the Natural Resources Defense Council in San Francisco.

"When it comes to examining the full impacts of pumping in the delta, DWR has been playing a shell game," Nelson said. "Suddenly, the public wakes up and finds a decision has been made without a full evaluation."

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STATE







Schwarzenegger takes heat for election failures

BY JULIET WILLIAMS
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Two days after suffering a stinging election defeat, a conciliatory Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger took responsibility for the failure of his ballot initiatives and said he learned that he needs more patience in seeking government reform.

"The buck stops with me," he told reporters Thursday during a Capitol news conference, referring to the clean sweep against his proposals in Tuesday's special election. "I take full responsibility for this election. I take full responsibility for its failure."

Voters rejected each of the initiatives Schwarzenegger was pushing on the ballot. He sought to implement a state spending cap and give the governor authority to make midyear budget cuts, change the way legislative districts are drawn, lengthen the probationary period for teachers and restrict the ability of public employee unions to raise money for political campaigns.

His measures targeted two of the state's most powerful political forces — the Democrats who control both houses of the Legislature and the public employee unions that contribute heavily to their campaigns.

Asked if there was anything he would do differently, Schwarzenegger said, "If I would do another Terminator movie, I would have Terminator travel back in time to tell Arnold not to have a special election."

He also made a reference to his wife, Maria Shriver, a Democrat who had been a key liaison to Democratic leaders early in his tenure but who remained silent during the special election campaign.

"I should have also listened to my wife, who said to me, 'Don't do this,"' Schwarzenegger said.

The special election marked the fourth time in three years that California voters went to the polls and was estimated to cost taxpayers $52 million to $55 million.

The governor said the election was his idea and that none of his advisers would lose their jobs because of the resounding defeat. Instead, Schwarzenegger said he simply set too early a deadline for accomplishing the reforms he seeks.

The rebuke by California voters taught him an important lesson, he said.

"I operate with a different mentality than most people do," Schwarzenegger said, saying he will seek to be more patient with legislators. "I think I recognize that now more so than I did before.

"The people said 'Initiatives are fine, but go and work it out with the legislators,"' he said. "There was clearly a supply-and-demand rule here. There was a lot of supply of initiatives but not enough demand for it."

Voters also rejected unrelated measures on abortion, prescription drugs and California's energy market.

Union leaders and some Democrats have called on the governor to apologize for forging ahead with the special election, but Schwarzenegger said he won't do that.

He said he would get in touch with union leaders who fought his ballot measures "and let them know I want to work with them. I cannot deliver everything they want. That's very clear. (But) we can work together and accomplish some of the things."

The governor met with reporters after he summoned the top legislative leaders from both parties to his office. The Democratic leaders said the governor had promised to work with them on education, transportation and other problems facing California.

"Everybody understands that we've got to put down the boxing gloves and ... get some stuff done," Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, D-Los Angeles, said after the meeting, which lasted less than 40 minutes.

Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata, D-Oakland, characterized the gathering as "a nice day-after meeting.

"There was not a discordant word spoken," he said. "Everybody is saying we want to get together."

The tone described in the meeting was a sharp contrast to the pre-election battles between the Republican governor and his Democratic opponents. They said Schwarzenegger was trying to ram through ballot measures that would give him more power, punish his union critics and give Republicans more seats in the Legislature and California's congressional delegation.

The legislative leaders said they didn't discuss specifics on how to improve schools, solve the state's transportation problems or address other issues facing the state.

But Nunez said he thought Schwarzenegger, who is running for re-election next year, "heard the message loud and clear Tuesday night." The governor, he said, talked like the candidate who won the 2003 recall election with a pledge to work in a bipartisan fashion in Sacramento.

"That's a very positive sign," Nunez said.

Assembly Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Bakersfield, said the governor and legislative leaders also discussed putting together legislation that would take redistricting duties away from the Legislature, despite the defeat of Proposition 77. That measure, soundly defeated by voters, was the governor's plan to give redistricting powers to a panel of retired judges and draw new districts for the June and November 2006 elections.

"I think the sooner we get it done the better off we are, the greater trust the public will have," McCarthy said.

Schwarzenegger said Proposition 77 would have eliminated the conflict of interest created by having lawmakers draw their own districts. He complained that districts drawn by the Legislature after the 2000 census were designed to protect incumbents in both parties.

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STATE

STATE BRIEFS

Residents go postal after delivery was halted

By The Associated Press

POMONA, Calif. — At first, the U.S. Postal Service suspended mail delivery to their block after a frightened letter carrier witnessed a drive-by shooting.

The cutoff came without warning, and went on for 18 months. And after postal officials repeatedly ignored their complaints, residents of the 2200 block of Carlton Avenue realized it was time to push the envelope.

The residents, along with city officials, were about to picket the Pomona postal office when postal officials finally agreed to restart home delivery in about three weeks.

It's not uncommon for the Postal Service to suspend service in an area deemed unsafe for mail carriers. But those suspension rarely last for months.

"The post office overreacted," said Mary Abasta, who has lived on the working-class street for 25 years.

Postal Service officials say the need to protect letter carriers prompted the suspension of service to the block. As a safety precaution, postal officials asked the block's 32 families to move mailboxes to the front edge of their properties so mail carriers won't have to walk to the front doors of the homes.

Mayor's funeral jaunt under scrutiny

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A member of the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission said he would seek a review by the panel to determine whether Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa acted properly in using a private jet to attend the funeral of Rosa Parks in Detroit.

The Nov. 1 trip came under fire by ethics watchdog groups because the jet was owned by Orange-based Ameriquest Mortgage Co., which has a lobbyist assigned to City Hall.

"It's not good," commissioner Bill Boyarsky said. "We should look at it."

Villaraigosa, who borrowed the jet to fly with an aide, two police bodyguards and a pastor, has defended the flight.

"The rules and regulations that cover this were all complied with and followed," Villaraigosa told KCAL-TV.

He said he plans to use his political account to pay Ameriquest $438 each for himself and his aide — the amount commercial air carriers charge for Detroit flights.

Boyarsky said he wants the panel to look at whether politicians should pay at least the equivalent of a first class fare when flying on private jets.

Commissioner Sean Treglia said elected officials should be required to disclose the full value of flights on private jets, which usually cost thousands of dollars.

Flashing costs reserve sheriff his badge

By The Associated Press

SANTA ANA, Calif. — An Orange County sheriff's reserves volunteer has resigned amid allegations that he flashed his badge during a July 4 dispute over a hard-to-find parking space.

Fred Glusman, a Newport Beach restaurant owner, surrendered his badge last month, before an internal investigation was concluded, said department spokesman Jim Amormino.

Glusman allegedly showed his badge during a dispute with the owners of a coffee shop after he parked in a customer-only spot, Newport Beach police Sgt. Bill Hartford said.

No report was taken, but Hartford said he pieced the incident together after talking with officers who responded to a complaint by the cafe owners.

Glusman's resignation followed the August arrest of Raymond Yi, a reserve deputy who allegedly pulled a gun and flashed his sheriff's badge on two golfers at Los Serranos Golf & Country Club.

Yi was arrested after some reserves — political allies of Sheriff Michael S. Carona — were removed from the state's peace officer database because they were appointed without background checks.

Truck driver to stay put in prison

By The Associated Press

LANCASTER, Calif. — A Palmdale man who rear-ended a car with his truck, killing a baby inside the car, will serve eight more months in a county jail as part of a plea deal, prosecutors said.

Eric Mason Boden, 27, rear-ended the Honda Accord carrying 6-month-old Natalie Ceja on July 16. Natalie died even though she was strapped into a safety seat, California Highway Patrol officials said. Her parents were uninjured.

Boden was arrested and charged with driving under the influence causing injury as well as gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated. Prosecutors were concerned it would be difficult to prove that Boden acted in a grossly negligent manner, Deputy District Attorney Flora Podratz said.

Boden agreed Thursday to plead no contest to a lesser charge of driving under the influence causing injury and vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated, Podratz said.

He was sentenced to one year in county jail, with about four months credit for time served, and five years of formal probation with conditions, including an alcohol treatment program.



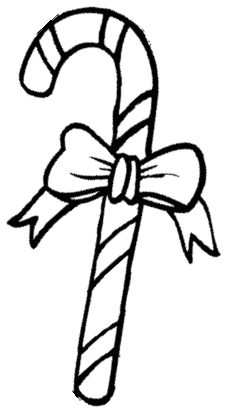
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Otters prove slick in battle of wits with feds

BY TIM MOLLOY
Associated Press Writer

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. — Greg Sanders' otter-catching days are over.

It's been years since he last snatched the animals from Southern California waters and shipped them north under an ambitious federal program to preserve an endangered species while protecting shellfish divers from natural competition.

Now, in an admission that the slick-furred creatures refuse to respect boundaries imposed by man, the federal government wants officially to abandon an otter-relocation policy it effectively dumped more than a decade ago.

If the government's battle of wits is at its end, the otters have won.

"This concept of taking animals and putting them in one place and expecting them to stay where we want them ... wasn't really working," said Sanders, 44, a bright-eyed U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist who exudes the kind of patience it takes to spend days waiting out elusive animals.

The agency is taking public comment through January in hopes of scuttling the program, which cost several million dollars before it tailed off in 1993. Fishermen want the existing policy enforced.

Environmentalists praise the idea of letting otters go where they want, saying it will aid the recovery of a species hunted almost to extinction. By the end of the 19th century, an otter population of 16,000 that had stretched from Mexico to Oregon had dwindled to 50 otters in a secluded cove off Big Sur. Today there about 2,700 southern otters off California's coast, Fish and Wildlife estimates.

One of them, nicknamed Phoky, became Sanders' chief nemesis. The name, pronounced "folky," came from his habit of trying to mate with harbor seals, which are of the genus "phoca."

Sanders stalked Phoky around Southern California's Anacapa Island for 24 days in 1990. Finally, Sanders captured Phoky and sent him north to Monterey.

Within six months, Phoky was back in forbidden waters.

He was one of dozens of otters that surprised government biologists at almost every turn.

To appease fishermen, in 1987 the agency banned otters from California waters south of Point Conception near Santa Barbara — with one exception.

Fearful that an oil spill could wipe out otters elsewhere, Fish and Wildlife tried to create a reserve for 150 otters on San Nicholas Island, about 80 miles south of Santa Barbara.

Biologists had thought the otters would stay near San Nicholas, which has plenty of food and is surrounded by deep water that is hard to swim across. Even if the otters wanted to leave, it seemed improbable that they had the navigation skills to do it — especially since they were taken to the island by plane.

"We flew 'em out there," Sanders said, "although we didn't blindfold them."

The otters didn't play along. Some swam up to 200 miles to return to native habitat along the Central Coast.

Fishermen and seafood processors say federal officials never did enough — and complain that lobster and urchin fishing could be devastated if otters continue roaming Southern California waters.

"It comes down to a philosophy of, what do you believe in? Do you believe in animals or do you believe in human beings?" said Robert S. Juntz Jr., president of the Sea Urchin Processors Association and owner of a processing plant in Mendocino County that employs about 45 people.

"The otters are a very voracious animal," Juntz said, adding they reduce shellfish levels "to where you and I, if we went sport fishing, would have a really hard time finding enough to feed ourselves for a day."

Otters are good at getting their prey — but getting otters was never so easy.

After waiting for an otter to fall asleep, wildlife crews would sneak up beneath it with a propeller-powered craft manned by a diver and snare it in a net. The otter then would be flown in a chartered plane or driven hundreds of miles to a Northern California beach for re-release. Some died from the stress.

Total cost: $6,000 to $12,000 per otter.

But before officials can catch an otter, they have to spot it. One recent Tuesday, as part of the agency's fall otter survey, Sanders spent two hours near the University of California, Santa Barbara, peering through a telescope at a kelp bed where something resembling an otter had been seen the day before.

Sanders perked up when a potential otter bobbed near the surface, but it turned out to be a harbor seal. Or a log. Lots of things look like otters.

"You get these harbor seals that fake you out," Sanders said.

Sometimes, though, Sanders catches a break — as in the incident he refers to as "the drive-by sighting."

Years ago, Sanders got a call from a lifeguard who had been cruising along coastal Highway 101 near Ventura when he spotted what he thought was an otter. Sanders was incredulous, but decided to follow up.

It turned out to be Phoky.

A few weeks ago, Sanders and other wildlife officials marked the 15th anniversary of Phoky's first capture near Anacapa.

Phoky didn't make it to the celebration. Last Sanders heard, the otter was rumored to be in Mexico.

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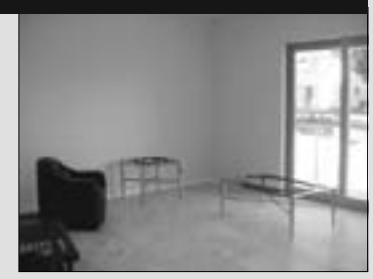
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STATE

NFL, Coliseum agree on team ... at some time

BY JOHN NADEL
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — The NFL and city officials have reached a preliminary agreement on terms to bring a team back to the Los Angeles Coliseum.

Commissioner Paul Tagliabue made the announcement Thursday on the steps of City Hall. But he didn't identify a potential tenant or speculate when Los Angeles might get the team.

He also spoke positively about a team playing at a facility proposed for the Angel Stadium parking lot in Anaheim and didn't rule out the Rose Bowl in Pasadena as a possible home field, either.

As Tagliabue entered a limousine, he was asked if he could assess the significance of what he had just announced. He replied, "I'd rather not try."

The commissioner did say: "It's the first time we've had agreement on term sheets. We're one step closer, two or three steps closer. Whether it's 2009, 2010, or 2000-whatever, our goal is to have definitive agreements on all subject matters well before our league meetings in March."

The Los Angeles area, the second-largest television market in the country, has been without an NFL team since the Raiders moved from the Coliseum back to Oakland and the Rams moved from Anaheim to St. Louis before the 1995 season.

After announcing plans in the spring of 1999 to put an expansion team in the Coliseum, the NFL was unable to reach an agreement with the Los Angeles backers and instead awarded the 32nd franchise to Houston that October.

Houston businessman Bob McNair and his backers offered to pay $700 million for the new franchise and spend another $310 million on a stadium, making it the NFL's first billion-dollar deal. The Texans began play in 2002.

Tagliabue said significant progress has been made in the past year regarding the Coliseum. His statement came following a meeting with Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and before a session with Anaheim Mayor Curt Pringle.

"I think the critical thing now is we're at the point where it's recognized, certainly by us, that the time is right," Tagliabue said. "We have to get agreements finalized. We'll be pursuing agreements in Anaheim. We're going to work with both communities for an agreement."

He said there have been no in-depth discussions on whether the region would get an expansion or existing team.

Tagliabue said last month that future expansion was unlikely anywhere but Los Angeles.

He also said it was important to make sure Southern California, the nation's top-ranked college team, was comfortable with any agreement, since the Trojans have made the Coliseum their home since 1923.

Tagliabue planned on meeting with USC coach Pete Carroll later Thursday. The commissioner met with Gov. Arnold Schwarzennegger late Wednesday.

Tentative plans call for the NFL to finance construction of a $500 million stadium inside the Coliseum, home to the Rams from 1946-79 and the Raiders from 1982-94.

City Councilman Bernard Parks said after listening to Tagliabue that he believes the Coliseum will eventually get an existing team rather than an expansion team.

"The NFL is going to have a say on who's going to come here. The Coliseum has no role in selecting a team," Parks said.

Asked when it might happen, Parks replied: "I don't know. Nobody's signed anything. They've got to say they're coming."

That being said, Parks expressed optimism.

"In my judgment, I don't believe these business people waste their time and money," he said. "They've spent a lot of time and money."

While Tagliabue didn't rule out the Rose Bowl, the Pasadena City Council voted 5-2 with one abstention last June to pursue a plan for the stadium that doesn't involve the NFL. Carson dropped out of contention in May when city officials decided to build a mall on its proposed site.



STATE

California eyes stadium equal to its academics

BY JANIE MCCAULEY
AP Sports Writer

BERKELEY, Calif. — Soon, the California football team will have a state-of-the-art training facility that all the top teams like to brag about in the living rooms of recruits.

The school unveiled pieces of a master plan Thursday that calls for refurbishing Memorial Stadium and building an adjacent high-performance center for use by all athletic programs. The 130,000 square-foot, two-story training complex — with a 23,000-square foot weight room, locker rooms, offices and sports medicine facilities — is slated for completion in time for the 2008 season, and construction won't keep the Golden Bears from practicing in the stadium.

"This will be as good as anything anybody's got for training," athletic director Sandy Barbour said in a news conference. "This is the kind of thing Jeff Tedford and I have been partnering on since my arrival. ... The project is really magical."

While the major stadium renovations won't begin until the second phase — probably close to the time the training center is finished in three years — Barbour said some temporary improvements will be made to the historic football stadium, which opened in 1923 as a tribute to those who lost their lives in World War I.

Upgrades will be made to concession stands, restrooms and seating, then eventually easier access for handicapped fans and improved seating and suite options. Costs for the project's first phase are estimated at approximately $125 million, and about half of that money has already been raised through private donations. The school says it's too early to determine what the entire project will cost.

Groundbreaking is scheduled to begin in December 2006.

Barbour's goal since she came to Cal last fall has been to turn the Bears into an elite athletic department, and "this starts that journey," she said. The football team has fallen out of the Top 25 rankings after starting the season at No. 19.

Project managers and Cal officials will use care to maintain the venue's facade and flavor, which make it one of the most beautiful settings to watch college football in the country — not to mention a cherished landmark in the Bay Area.

The stadium provides spectacular views of San Francisco to the West and pine trees in Strawberry Canyon and the Berkeley Hills to the East. It was built for just under $1.5 million, but sits right on the Hayward Fault line, causing concern about whether the structure could withstand a major earthquake. Seismic improvements will be made throughout the life of the project.

> **"This will be as good as anything anybody's got for training."**
>
> **SANDY BARBOUR**
> Athletic director

Cal is one of the premier academic institutions in the nation but has long been thought to have sub-par athletic facilities, making the challenges of recruiting that much tougher.

"This is a great day, without a doubt," said Tedford, who agreed to a five-year contract extension as football coach last December after Barbour raised all the money to keep him entirely from private donors in just 2 1/2 months on the job.

Part of the deal was a commitment by the university to improve facilities.

"This has been in the works for a long time," Tedford said. "No. 1 institution in the country, we should have our sports programs match that. We're moving our way toward that with this announcement. ... This brings us to the level to where we will be able to compete with our competitors not only in the Pac-10 but throughout the country."

Also Thursday, part of the same project to improve the southeast corner of campus, chancellor Robert Birgeneau announced the university's business and law schools will move into a stunning new building together — each having their own wing in the butterfly shaped structure. It will be across the street from the stadium, linked by open space and landscaping.

Barbour, who last September became Cal's first female AD, directed a similar project during her five previous years at Notre Dame, two as top assistant. She and Tedford spent three days this summer visiting Ohio State, Texas, Penn State, North Carolina and North Carolina State to look at their training facilities.

"It's just nice to know we have one of the best facilities on the way," reserve quarterback Nate Longshore said. "This will bring us up to the level of the other top teams in the country."









Oh deer! Millionaire enriches wildlife habitat

BY SUSAN GALLAGHER
Associated Press Writer

HELENA, Mont. — LeRoy Beckman lived so frugally that he went to second-hand stores for hearing aids and heated only one room of his small Montana house.

He got around in an old panel truck, favored bib overalls regardless of the occasion and found Social Security adequate in his old age. "He looked dirt poor," said Jim McDermand of Billings.

But Beckman left an estate upward of $3 million when he died in 1997, at 88. The Great Falls man essentially left the money to deer and hunters. Now, the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks is solidifying Beckman's legacy.

This month the agency's commissioners voted to accept the fourth and final gift of land bought with Beckman's money. His will requires the lands, which are contiguous, be managed for the good of wildlife and be open to hunters.

With the latest purchase, the Beckman Wildlife Management Area in central Montana grows to about 6,500 acres of grasslands, pine and fir trees, gentle slopes, coulees, the Judith River and, particularly important to Beckman, mule deer.

The area also has antelope, wild turkeys, pheasants, foxes, coyotes, raptors, songbirds and an occasional mountain lion.

Beckman's generosity is "a testament to basic decency and civic involvement," said Steve Doherty, chairman of the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission. But the involvement came posthumously. People who knew Beckman say he was a loner, trusted few people and was happiest in the wild, hunting.

"He was intelligent, but people did not give him credit for that," said Jim Luoma of Sand Coulee, who became Beckman's friend through a mutual interest in guns. He said Beckman was the son of a single mother during part of his childhood, and knew what it was like to be poor. He farmed as a young man, put money in gold stocks and got a handsome return, then invested in oil, Luoma said.

"Things just started going for him," he said. Luoma believes his friend was a savvy investor with a smart adviser.

Beckman's lone sibling, half-sister Evelyn Fish of Great Falls, remembers him as a person who loved to read, loved his dog, obeyed hunting laws meticulously and loathed hunters who did not.

McDermand's affiliation with the Montana Wildlife Federation led an aging Beckman to him, with an appeal for help in arranging his financial affairs.

"He felt he wasn't going to make it too much longer and said he had quite a bit of money that he would like to donate to mule-deer habitat," said McDermand.

"When we finished he said, 'Don't tell any ... women or lawyers about this,"' McDermand added. "He didn't trust either one."

McDermand did persuade Beckman to meet with Great Falls lawyer Kirk Evenson, after describing him as an avid sportsman, to prepare the bequest.

"Even though he was a curmudgeon, his heart was really in the right place for the wildlife and the sportsmen of Montana," McDermand said.



At fault: Congestion puts planners on edge

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press Writer

ALISO VIEJO — Traffic has gotten so bad along the eastern rim of Los Angeles' ever-expanding suburban ring that regional planners are seriously considering the once unthinkable — an 11-mile tunnel under a mountain range in earthquake country.

The proposal calls for the second-longest road tunnel in the world, a new path between sprawling inland suburbs and Orange County, a suburban bedroom community that has developed into one of Southern California's fastest-growing job centers.

Critics, however, question the logic of building a multibillion-dollar project they dub the "terrible tunnel" in a region so prone to earthquakes that an alternate proposal for a double-decker highway was deemed too dangerous. The tunnel would begin barely a mile from a fault that has produced a 6.0-magnitude earthquake.

"It's absolutely absurd to have a tunnel 700 feet below ground in earthquake country," said Cathryn DeYoung, mayor of Laguna Niguel and a vocal opponent. "I mean, would you want to be in that tunnel?"

Residents have voiced that and other concerns leading up to a mid-November decision by local planners over the proposed tunnel's fate.

Building such a long and challenging project — ensuring adequate ventilation, preventing groundwater leaks and making it comfortable for claustrophobic drivers of up to 105,000 cars a day — could cost up to $9 billion and take 25 years.

Transportation officials insist something drastic must be done to deal with crippling congestion between Orange and Riverside counties, which are separated by the 25-mile-long Santa Ana Mountains.

Traffic between the counties has exploded over the past two decades. Nearly 400,000 people commute into Orange County daily from four surrounding counties, including Los Angeles, and nearly all of them drive. Even five years ago, nearly 52,000 commuters a day came in from Riverside County, where homes are more affordable, according to the census.

The only major highway connecting Riverside County to jobs-rich northern Orange County carries 268,000 cars a day — nearly 50,000 more than it was built to handle. Officials expect that total to increase over the next 25 years to nearly a half-million cars per day.

If nothing changes, State Highway 91 will need up to 12 additional lanes by 2030 to handle the traffic between the counties, said H. Tony Rahimian, a consultant who helped devise the tunnel proposal.

Property manager Howard Gottesman, 44, can spend 1 1/2 hours on Highway 91 to travel six miles from his job in Orange County to his home in Corona, just inside Riverside County.

"I call it the longest six miles in the world. It's wear and tear on the car and it's wear and tear on me," said Gottesman. "They need to do something, whether it's double-decking the freeway or tunneling under the mountains. We need relief."

Planners with Orange and Riverside counties have spent the past 18 months and $15 million in federal funds studying just how to get that relief. A 13-member committee made up of county, city and toll road officials is expected to choose elements from three main alternatives by Nov. 18. Two of those alternatives include a version of the tunnel.

Selecting an option with a tunnel would trigger a series of studies and state and federal approvals that could take up to 20 years.

As currently conceived, the four- or six-lane tunnel would make up more than two-thirds of a 15-mile east-west corridor connecting Interstate 15 with two toll roads in Orange County's center. The four-lane option would include a toll, while the six-lane option would be free.

The tunnel would rank second in length to Norway's 15-mile Laerdal Tunnel, which opened in 2000.



NATIONAL

Judge says suit against KISS singer can proceed

BY SAMUEL MAULL
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — A woman who claims to be a former girlfriend of KISS rocker Gene Simmons can proceed with a defamation lawsuit in which she says he made her sound like a "sex-addicted nymphomaniac" during a VH1 television show, a judge has ruled.

State Supreme Court Justice Rosalyn Richter denied Simmons' motion to dismiss two of three claims by Georgeann Walsh Ward, 53, who says in court papers made public Friday that Simmons slandered her during a "rockumentary" about KISS.

Ward said in her lawsuit, filed in January, that photos of her appeared 11 times during the report on KISS, which was shown on the network several times in July and August. In it, Simmons claimed to have had sexual encounters with 4,600 women.

The documentary, "When KISS Ruled The World," chronicled the band's 30-year career, its impact on rock music and the quartet's "wild" antics. The other band members were guitarist/singer Paul Stanley, drummer Peter Criss, and guitarist Ace Frehley.

Simmons says during the show, "There wasn't a girl that was off limits, and I enjoyed every one of them," Ward's court papers say.

At another point Simmons says, "I was a 24-hour whore. All I ever thought about was sex." This, court papers say, was shown and followed by a photo of Ward with Simmons.

Ward's papers say that because a photo of her with Simmons — though her name is never mentioned — was shown during remarks about his sexual adventures, she was in effect portrayed as "wild" and "unchaste."

Richter let stand Ward's two claims that she was depicted as unchaste or promiscuous during the documentary, even though Ward admitted she was in a "romantic" relationship with Simmons.

Social mores regarding sex between unmarried persons have changed, the judge said, but the law still says that calling a woman unchaste is defamation.

The judge dismissed Ward's claim that her likeness was used for commercial purposes without her permission. Richter said editorial use of photographs in documentaries or news publications is not barred by law.

Ward's lawyer, Martha McBrayer, did not return calls for comment.

Linda Steinman, who represents Simmons, did not return calls for comment.



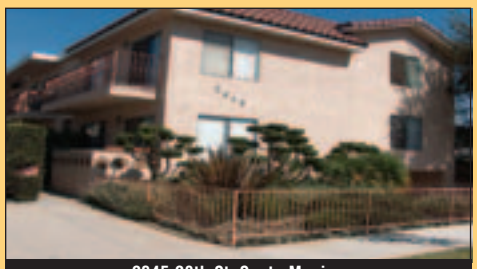
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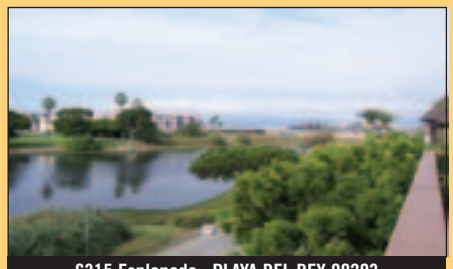


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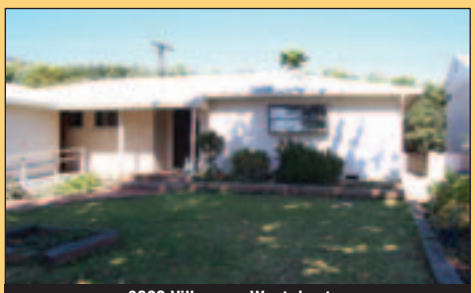


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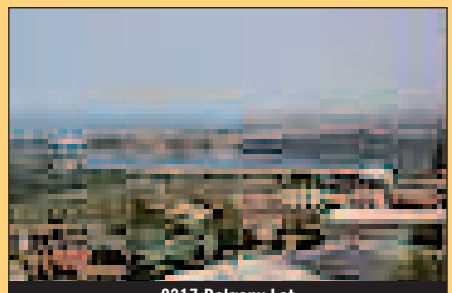


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End of stories



Derek Goes/Special to the Daily Press

The last of the buildings at the RAND Corp. on Main Street are being torn down. The property, owned by City Hall, will be redeveloped to include open space and affordable housing.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

will be available. Hourly drawings will be held for Red Cross emergency kits. Each person attending will receive a certificate for a free Red Cross health and safety class. Most Red Cross classes, including First Aid and CPR, cost $42 each.

Anyone interested in attending should call the Red Cross at (310) 394-3773.

Money talks: Free lecture on economics at SMC

By Daily Press staff

Community members interested in economic issues are invited to attend a free lecture next week by New York Times columnist and economist Paul Krugman.

The lecture, "Will There Be a Dollar Crisis?," will be held at 5:15 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 15 in the Santa Monica College concert hall, 1900 Pico Blvd. Seating is on a first-arrival basis.

Krugman, a controversial economist best known for his outspoken opinion pieces in the New York Times, has been praised for his ability to write about sophisticated economic concepts in a way that non-economists can appreciate and understand, school officials said. He has written or edited 18 books, as well as hundreds of articles for such publications as the International Herald-Tribune, Fortune, and Slate Magazine, as well as the New York Times.

The lecture is co-sponsored by the SMC social science department and the SMC Associates, a private organization that funds speakers and special programs on campus. For information, call (310) 434-4303.



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LOCAL



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Sergio Romero vacuums the boxing ring at the newly refurbished Virginia Avenue Park in preparation for Saturday's grand opening.

Yes, Virginia, a new park opens

PARK PLACE, from page 1

ments and residents drop by for an early visit.

On Friday, dozens of parents and children gathered on the lawns, playground and basketball courts to enjoy the afternoon. Many said they had been looking forward to the opening.

"We're just raving about it," said Becky Turk, a 12-year Santa Monica resident talking to a group of mothers as she watched her two children play. "The park is bigger than it used to be. The kids have more room, and this is one more place for them in the city."

Previously covering 5.8 acres, the new Virginia Avenue Park spans 9.5 acres, and is bounded by Pico Boulevard to the south, Cloverfield Boulevard to the east and Virginia Avenue to the north. Residences along 21st Street border the park's western edge. The police substation, previously on Pico Boulevard, is being moved into the park.

It features parkland, basketball courts,

See **PARK PLACE**, page 17



*Saturday November 19, 2005

Ba Ba Booey, Gary Del'Abate from the Stern Show is making his final Los Angeles Free FM Appearance this Saturday from 1 to 3 pm at 'Taboo Hydroponics' in Santa Monica...

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FREE FM

Virginia Park project is one of several on tap for city spaces

PARK PLACE, from page 16

playgrounds, community meeting rooms and an outdoor stage.

Work crews renovated two buildings along Pico Boulevard that used to belong to Plastic Mart. The buildings — located at 2101 and 2115 Pico Blvd. — will house a youth center, park activity rooms, administrative offices and a fitness room for the Police Activities League, a seasonal water play area, and a tree-shaded area for the Santa Monica Farmer's Market, said Karen Ginsberg, assistant director of City Hall's community and cultural services department.

City Hall issued a recent staff report which details the programming that will be available at the new park.

Santa Monica contains 25 parks. Officials said City Manager Susan McCarthy, set to retire this month, has been instrumental in efforts to secure $125 million ear-marked for capital improvement projects for the next five years, which will include the costs associated with a series of smaller projects for new parks, expansions and renovations.

Among the projects on the near horizon, according to Brett Horner, Senior Administrative Analyst with Santa Monica's Community and Cultural Services Department, the Airport Park is supposed to be ready in August 2006, followed by the Euclid Neighborhood Park in March of 2007. The Village Green and Pacific Coast Highway are projected to be ready in December of 2008.

The city's parks and recreation master plan went into effect in March of 1997, with the recently opened Skatepark and Euclid Neighborhood Park being added due to demand, Horner said. The park master plan was the first of its kind for Santa Monica, created in conjunction with the city's open space guidelines and putting a priority on urban living which provides plenty of outdoor opportunities for recreation, he said.

The city's parks and recreation master plan went into effect in March of 1997.

The Village Green will cost $9.1 million to construct and will offer open space to be developed as part of a long-term development plan for a Santa Monica Civic Center.

The 415 Pacific Coast Highway will cost more than $20 million to construct and will be a rehabilitation of a five-acre mansion. The Annenberg Foundation has already donated $21 million to support construction and operation of the facility, Horner said.

Santa Monica resident Carmen Cruz said the park will offer programming for all ages that will give youth an opportunity to develop a variety of skills.

"They've made it so there's something for everyone, so everyone can enjoy it," Cruz said.







CANNABIS THERAPY

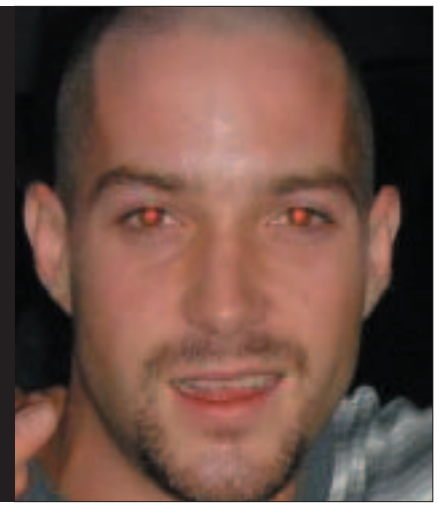
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LOCAL

City Hall weighing options for Promenade

CART CASE, from page 1

The agreement calls for PRI to provide 17 retail carts, five food carts, a cart for concierge services, and three carts for artists.

PRI representatives deny allegations of participating in retaliatory practices and say they have tried to be fair in considering both new and previous vending cart operators in their program.

Meanwhile, current vending cart operators have been granted a request to extend their business on the Promenade for the next few weeks until PRI takes over management duties, which it's hoping to do by the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. Current cart operators were originally supposed to be off the Promenade by Nov. 13.

In June, PRI was awarded a minimal 10-year contract to replace Promenade Services Inc., the group that had managed the Promenade's mobile cart operations since 1989. City officials and the Bayside District Corp. — a nonprofit group of business leaders who help manage downtown along with City Hall — felt it was time to explore new vendors who could present better concepts or approaches that would make it more profitable for the Promenade.

The agreement calls for PRI to provide 17 retail carts, five food carts, a cart for concierge services, and three carts for artists. PRI, which owns the carts, has the discretion to choose which operators it will use, according to Miriam Mack, the city's economic development manager. PRI has offered eight of 16 current cart operators a chance to sign on, three of whom have rejected the offer, according to city staff. All of the slots have been filled.

Under the new program, cart operators will pay significantly higher rents and will be required to make substantial improvements to the carts they rent from PRI. City Hall is expected to bring in a minimum of $187,000 annually in the new program. However, it could be more, based on a percentage of operators' sales.

Current vending cart operators who disagree with aspects of the new program are being represented by an attorney Tracy Green, who has provided City Hall with several documents that build her clients' case and describes the action they would like City Hall to take address their grievances.

The documents include sworn testimony from three current vending cart operators who allege PRI retaliated against them for speaking out against the new program.

Green said at the Nov. 8 City Council meeting that it's not her clients' intent to sue City Hall. However, in a letter addressed to representatives at City Hall, Green asked that officials tell PRI to reconsider her clients' applications to take part in the new program. In addition, they should be allowed to continue through the holiday season which, according to the letter, would give PRI "time to comply with its contract requirements in good faith."



CART OPERATORS TESTIMONY

Daniel Ganon, who sells sunglasses on two carts called the "Red Line," alleges that PRI invited him to participate in the program but withdrew his application when the firm realized he was listed as an attendee at an August meeting seeking clarification about the new program with city staff.

According to his testimony, Ganon, headed on a trip to Israel, authorized cart operators to represent his interests during the meeting with city staff. He returned from Israel on Aug. 25 and followed up with Deborah S. Kravitz, PRI's co-owner, to check on the status of his application, which he sent prior to his departure. According to Ganon, Kravitz questioned Ganon as to whether he had attended the meeting, which he replied that he had not. Kravitz then asked Ganon why his name was on the list of attendees. Ganon explained he had asked to be represented at the meeting by the cart operators, according to his testimony. Apparently, City Hall's economic development manager, Miriam Mack, requested the list and, according to cart operators, forwarded it Kravitz. The list is public record.

According to his testimony, Ganon was not rejected from the new program until he spoke out about it at a Sept. 13 City Council meeting. At approximately 12:30 p.m. on Sept. 23, Ganon said he decided after much trepidation to call Kravitz to confirm his place in the new program, since that day was the deadline to participate. According to his testimony, Kravitz told him "not to bother" because, "You are out. You are done. I'm tired of you guys going behind my back to the City Council."

Doron Meidan, who sells perfume on a cart called "Scents of Style" and beach toys from "Pacific Atmosphere," alleges in his testimony how he was rejected from the new program because of his participation in the August meeting with city staff.

Maya Lieberman, who sells custom-designed and hand-made bags, wallets and belts on a cart called "Treasure Dream," alleges in her testimony that "in no time was I afforded anything remotely approaching preference in the process of applying to remain a part of the Promenade cart program. At no time did Ms. Kravitz even bother to meet me in person or to visit at the cart to see my merchandise." Lieberman explains in her testimony about the repeated attempts she made to contact Kravitz, which were not expeditiously returned.

According to Lieberman's testimony, Kravitz finally left her a voice mail message explaining how she would not be available for several days. Lieberman said she received the message within 10 minutes after it was left on her cell phone. Lieberman called Kravitz back, who told her, "I was supposed to listen to the voice mail she had left me and not to call her on her cell phone, and then she hung up."

PRI DENIES ALLEGATIONS

Kravitz said it was not PRI's intent to appear retaliatory. She said she has tried to be fair in considering both new and previous operators.

"There was certainly no retaliatory intent on our part whatsoever," Kravitz said. "We've been doing cart leasing and management for years and we wouldn't have been successful in our capacity as a consulting firm if we didn't have skill in negotiating with tenants.

"The posturing seems to have been done because the tenants want to stay in the current situation."

She also pointed out that PRI has missed financial opportunities because the program has been delayed by City Hall.

Overall, Kravitz said she and her employees — mostly women — are excited about their opportunity to work on the Promenade. However, Kravitz said cart operators have threatened and harassed one of her employees. The employee filed a police report, she said.

Kravitz said PRI answered City Hall's request for proposal, which was unanimously approved by the City Council. She added that current merchants were well aware of the fact that the operation was changing hands.

In the past, merchants complained because an operator could have multiple carts on the Promenade. Under the new system, operators will only be allowed to have one cart, so "everyone can have a piece of the pie," Kravitz said.

The new carts are intended to be a more attractive addition to the Promenade, Kravitz said. PRI also has hired a merchandising expert who will see to it the wares for sale at each cart are distinct from one another and nearby shops.

Such moves will likely increase revenue for the cart operators, Kravitz said.

Kravitz said she is confident the new program will be well-regarded on the Promenade once operations begin.

"The proof will be in the pudding," she said.

REACTIONS MIXED AT CITY HALL

City Attorney Marsha Moutrie, whose office is leading the probe, described the allegations against PRI, and perhaps City Hall, as "less than crystal clear."

Moutrie told the City Council on Tuesday that the vagueness of City Hall's contract with PRI made it difficult to determine whether the firm exercised "preference" toward current vending cart operators when selecting participants into its new program.

Moutrie said suggestions that City Hall might have acted in complicity with PRI to weed out current operators that the firm didn't want don't appear valid.

Councilman Kevin McKeown pointed out that even if Mack provided a list of attendees to the August meeting and forwarded it on to Kravitz — who then used it maliciously — such a move didn't necessarily make City Hall culpable.

"(Mack) might have passed it on thinking Kravitz would use the list to address cart operator concerns," McKeown said.

Moutrie said it was difficult to know whether PRI had acted in retaliation to cart operators without gathering testimony from Kravitz and other PRI representatives.

To do so would require legal permission, Moutrie said.

However, seeking such testimony would be an effort worth pursuing, according to members of the City Council, who approved the city attorney's office seeking such a request.

"My gut tells me something is wrong here," Councilman Ken Genser said.

Genser suggested that if City Hall were to buy out PRI's contract and run the program, it could do it in a manner similar to how it runs the vending cart program on the Santa Monica Pier. In that program, vending cart programs work individually with city staff and the attrition is much less, Genser said.

Other members of the council, although willing to continue the investigation, said other motivations may have to be explored during the probe.

Councilman Bob Holbrook said the posturing of the current vending cart operators on the Promenade seems to have changed over the course of the debate.

"My first impression was that the new program was going to be too expensive for the cart operators," Holbrook said. "Then we heard testimony from staff the costs associated with the new program are in fact standard throughout Southern California. Then we heard that some of the carts weren't selected, and that was unacceptable (because the cart operators were retaliated against). Then we heard from the City Attorney that she can't be absolutely certain there was retaliation.

"When you see smoke, you suspect there's a fire."

Holbrook said he prefers to see how PRI fares with the new program rather than City Hall buying out the contract and running it, a move which he thinks would be too costly and inappropriate.

"It would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars and I don't think it's the kind of business the city should be in," Holbrook said. "Personally, I think it should be left to the private sector.

"Leasing from the city doesn't mean you will lease from it forever."

NATIONAL

Bush rips critics, feels they send troops wrong message

BY DEB RIECHMANN
Associated Press Writer

TOBYHANNA, Pa. — President Bush strongly rebuked congressional critics of his Iraq war policy Friday, accusing them of being "deeply irresponsible" and sending the wrong signal both to America's enemy and to U.S. troops.

"The stakes in the global war on terror are too high, and the national interest is too important, for politicians to throw out false charges," Bush said in his most combative defense yet of his rationale for invading Iraq in March 2003.

Bush's charges brought a forceful response from senior Democrats in Congress, who accused the president of misleading the country about the justification for war. Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., who ran unsuccessfully against Bush last year, accused the president of playing "the politics of fear and smear."

Bush's speech was part of a coordinated White House effort to bolster the president's waning credibility and dwindling support for the war, in which at least 2,056 U.S. troops have died.

As casualties have climbed, Bush's popularity has dropped. His approval rating now is at 37 percent in the latest AP-Ipsos poll, an all-time low point for his presidency.

"When I made the decision to remove Saddam Hussein from power, Congress approved it with strong bipartisan support," Bush said in a Veterans Day speech at Tobyhanna Army Depot.

"While it's perfectly legitimate to criticize my decision or the conduct of the war, it is deeply irresponsible to rewrite the history of how that war began."

Bush's remarks brought a few jabs from fellow Republicans as well as a sharp counterattack from Democrats.

In a speech in Philadelphia, Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., criticized how the war has been presented to Americans — both by the media and the White House. Afterward, Santorum said the war has been "less than optimal" and "maybe some blame could be laid" at the White House. "Certainly, mistakes were made," Santorum said.

Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., who is weighing a run for president in 2008, has said he agrees with Democrats who are pressing the chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee to move forward with an investigation into whether the administration manipulated intelligence.

"I was probably the main driver on the Republican side because I thought we needed the answers to whether intelligence was misused, intentionally or unintentionally," Hagel told the Omaha World-Herald in a story published Friday.

Defending the march to war, Bush said foreign intelligence services and Democrats and Republicans alike were convinced at the time that Saddam Hussein, the former Iraqi leader, had weapons of mass destruction. The United Nations, he noted, had passed more than a dozen resolutions citing Saddam's development and possession of such weapons.

Accusing his critics of making false charges, Bush said: "These baseless attacks send the wrong signal to our troops and to an enemy that is questioning America's will.

Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid of Nevada said Democrats would continue to press for a full airing of the facts about prewar intelligence.

"As our troops fight a ruthless enemy determined to destroy our way of life, they deserve to know that their elected leaders who voted to send them to war continue to stand behind them."

Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid of Nevada said Democrats would continue to press for a full airing of the facts about prewar intelligence, and said asking tough questions was his party's way of standing with the troops.

"Americans seek the truth about how the nation committed our troops to war because the decision to go to war is too serious to be entered into under faulty pretenses," Reid said.

Criticism about prewar intelligence has been stoked by the recent indictment of Vice President Dick Cheney's chief of staff, I. Scooter Libby, in the CIA leak investigation.

The probe aims to identify who leaked the identity of an undercover CIA officer whose husband, a former ambassador, alleged that the administration relied on faulty intelligence to justify the invasion of Iraq.

Kerry accused the president of playing politics on a holiday set aside to honor veterans.

"This administration misled a nation into war by cherry-picking intelligence and stretching the truth beyond recognition. That's why Scooter Libby has been indicted. That's why a statement in the State of the Union Address was retracted," said Kerry, who voted in 2002 to give Bush the authority to wage war but later voted against additional funds for Iraq and Afghanistan reconstruction.

"It's a dangerous day for our national security when an administration's word is no good," Kerry said.

Bush chose to go on the road this Veterans Day to make his forceful defense of the war, leaving Cheney in Washington to attend traditional wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery.

Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., accused Bush of using Veterans Day as "a campaign-like attempt to rebuild his own credibility by tearing down those who seek the truth about the clear manipulation of intelligence in the run-up to the Iraq War."

Bush's political adviser Karl Rove, who is still under the cloud of the CIA leak investigation, hopped Air Force One to attend the speech, an indication that it was a political event.

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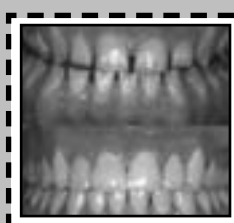
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NATIONAL

Dealing with dead trees fodder for debate

BY JEFF BARNARD
AP Environmental Writer

GRANTS PASS, Ore. — On a common-sense level, it is obvious. When a forest burns, the trees are dead. So you cut them down, haul them to the sawmill, and plant new ones. Soon the blackened hillsides will be covered with healthy green trees.

"Common sense says we need to restore habitats and watersheds for future generations," said Chris West, vice president of the American Forest Resources Council, a timber industry group. "If we don't choose to harvest dead trees and restore ecosystems for future generations, we are going to be forced to cut live green trees, in many cases on foreign soils, to meet consumer demand."

But many scientists say those dead trees, standing and falling to the ground over time, form the very foundation of a healthy and diverse forest that will seed itself with trees uniquely suited genetically to thrive on a specific site and support a rich diversity of fish and wildlife, even if a new forest is slow to regenerate.

"What we are dealing with, to a certain extent, is a mind-set: `That dead forest is a desert and the best thing you can do is get a closed forest back as quickly as possible,"' said Jerry Franklin, a professor of forest ecology at the University of Washington and one of the nation's leading experts on old growth forests. "We can't argue for salvage logging on the basis that it is going to do good things ecologically."

The reason for cutting the dead trees and planting new ones is to maximize production of timber, he said.

A battle that has been simmering for about 10 years is now focused on legislation in Congress that would help the U.S. Forest Service harvest burned timber and plant new forests more quickly after fires, storms and insect infestations, rather than following a planning process that can take so long that the trees are too rotten to use for lumber by the time it is completed.

The Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act from Reps. Greg Walden, R-Ore., and Brian Baird, D-Wash., would give land management agencies 30 days to evaluate the situation and come up with a plan, plus 90 days for public comment, with court challenges allowed after that.

"We want to design a system that allows for recovery of habitats faster," Walden said.

Until 1995, there was never much question what to do on national forests after a fire. Cut the dead trees and some living ones. Use the revenue to plant new ones.

That changed with the so-called Beschta Report. Written by Robert Beschta, a retired Oregon State University professor of hydrology, and seven other scientists for the Pacific Rivers Council, an environmental group, it reviewed the body of scientific research and concluded that salvage logging should be prohibited in sensitive areas because it promotes erosion and removes the big trees that are the building blocks of recovery. It advised all trees older than 150 years should be left standing, plus half of everything else, and new roads should not be built.

"There is generally no need for urgency, nor is there a universal, ecologically based need to act at all," the report said. Updated in 2004, it reached the same conclusions.

Environmentalists used it to win enough lawsuits to lead Forest Service Chief Dale Robertson to declare his frustration over "analysis paralysis" to Congress in 2002.

That frustration also led to the formation last year of a group in the heart of Oregon timber country, Communities for Healthy Forests, to press for legislation to harvest dead trees more quickly and plant new ones. The group, started by political and business leaders in Roseburg, produced a video and commissioned a poll, which found 77 percent of Oregonians support the idea of harvesting burned trees and planting new forests after wildfires.

"We can't help the devastation that occurred in 2002 that has had little restoration," said Bruce Klein, a Roseburg businessman and chairman of the committee. "However, if policies are changed, we could expect with rapid restoration, jobs would be created, money from harvest of dead trees would pay for planting new ones. Watersheds, habitat and new conifer trees would provide environmental, economic, social and recreational opportunities for our children."

The focus of their outrage was the 1996 Spring fire, which burned 16,000 acres on the Umpqua National Forest.

On a recent tour, Diamond Lake district ranger John Ouimet explained that two-thirds of the fire was in designated wilderness that by law could not be logged or planted. The rest was in old-growth forest reserves, where logging is limited, and roadless areas, where access is expensive and difficult. None was in areas designated for timber production.

Under terms of the Northwest Forest Plan, adopted in 1994 to protect habitat for the northern spotted owl and other species, so much dead wood had to be left behind there wasn't enough for a timber sale, Ouimet said. Young forest plantations that burned were replanted, but areas with big trees were not due to concerns they could fall on tree planters.

The Forest Service has no comprehensive count of how much of the Spring fire has sprouted new trees on its own, but based on limited Forest Service counts in the most severely burned areas, environmentalists estimate it could be as much as 75 percent — a number Umpqua Supervisor Jim Caplan said was inaccurate.

Even choked with brush, the burn is far from a wasteland. Just a few hundred yards from the tour site, Dick Bickford, a fit 73-year-old from Richland in Eastern Oregon who still packs out his kills on his back, was camped with his two airedales.

Though he laments the waste of not harvesting the dead trees for lumber, he comes to the Spring fire area years after year to hunt precisely because there is so much brush, the staple diet of deer.

"This is tremendous hunting," he said. "I've killed three bucks in this country that go over 200 pounds."

The tangle of dead trees still lying on the ground on federal land after the Mount St. Helens eruption — cited in the Communities for Healthy Forests video — is much richer in numbers of plant and animal species than the green trees replanted for timber on private land next door, said Franklin.

The Society of American Foresters supports the idea of reforesting the backlog of some 900,000 acres on national forests, arguing that replanting speeds the growth of timber as well as wildlife habitat, and salvage logging can be done with minimal environmental damage.

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NATIONAL

Rice makes appeal to Sunnis for cooperation

BY ANNE GEARAN
AP Diplomatic Writer

MOSUL, Iraq — Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice made a personal appeal Friday for Iraqis to bridge sectarian differences, venturing to a majority Sunni Arab region of the country to ask for cooperation in the coming election.

"I want to talk about the importance of reaching across sectarian lines," Rice said on her unannounced visit to this northern Iraqi city, which is about 60 percent Sunni Arab.

Rice made the comments to reporters traveling with her to the region. The secretary arrived at a military airport and rode by helicopter to U.S. base, flying over sheep grazing next to the roofless shells of bombed-out buildings and houses.

Rice's trip, her second to Iraq as secretary of state, comes five weeks before elections for a permanent Iraqi government. Like initial elections last January and a constitution-writing exercise this summer, the new round of voting is a marker of Iraq's political development. The Bush administration also hopes it is a step closer to the day when U.S. forces can leave the country.

Rice met with the provisional governor, Duraid Kashmoula, a Sunni, whose cousin and predecessor was killed by insurgents last year.

She was also helping launch an experiment in the fight to clear insurgents from Iraqi cities and keep them at bay. She reviewed three combined civilian-military units known as provisional reconstruction teams, which are rapid response units meant to move into violent areas once insurgents are gone and quickly establish order.

"If Iraq does not succeed and should Iraq become a place of despair, generations of Americans would also be condemned to fear," Rice said at a ceremony for the first of the teams. "So our fates and our futures are very much linked."

Units in Mosul, Hillah and Kirkuk are the first of 16 planned.

Sunnis, stripped of their former political primacy under Saddam Hussein, first boycotted U.S.-backed efforts to establish a new representative government in Iraq, and then last month voted in large numbers against a national constitution many saw as sealing their fate as disempowered minority. The constitution passed, and Rice framed the voting as a success because Sunnis turned out at all.

In the province of Nineveh, which includes Mosul, the vote was 55 percent against the referendum and 45 percent for it.

Political progress has been offset in Mosul and elsewhere by pernicious violence, including the deaths last month in Mosul of four U.S. Embassy employees killed by a roadside bomb.

Rice arrived in Iraq the day after a suicide bomber killed 35 people at a Baghdad restaurant favored by police, and a car bomb killed seven at an Iraqi army recruiting center to the north. More than 30 people were wounded in the attacks.

Elsewhere, Iraqi troops along the Iranian border found 27 decomposing bodies, unidentified victims of the grisly violence plaguing the country.

Al-Qaida in Iraq claimed in an Internet posting that it staged the attack on the restaurant in retaliation for U.S. and Iraqi operations near the Syrian border. Earlier, it claimed responsibility for Wednesday night's deadly hotel bombings in neighboring Jordan, linking those blasts to the conflict in Iraq.

As of Thursday, at least 2,056 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

Flying to the region, Rice condemned the bombings in Jordan as the work of indiscriminate killers and said she may visit the kingdom while in the Mideast this week to show solidarity with an Arab ally in the fight against terrorism.

The nearly simultaneous attack on three Western hotels that killed at least 56 people — including partygoers at a wedding celebration — "underscores that these terrorists will attack innocent people without remorse," Rice said Thursday as she flew to the region.

Rice's trip, scheduled before Wednesday's bombings, included a stop in Bahrain for meetings on development and democratic progress in the Middle East. She will also visit Saudi Arabia, Israel and the West Bank.

Rice said she will talk to Jordanian leaders about whether to take a side trip to Jordan, saying she did not want to interfere with recovery efforts.

She said street protests against the bombings by angry Jordanians show the terrorists' message does not resonate.

"People are really tired of these killers," she said.

Rice expressed hope that a deal could be reached with Iran regarding its nuclear program. But she would not confirm that the United States would back a deal with Europe, described by senior officials and diplomats, to accept expanded Iranian nuclear activities if uranium enrichment is done in Russia.

"There is no U.S.-European proposal to the Iranians," Rice said. "I want to say that categorically. There isn't and there won't be."

The European Union, led by Britain, France and Germany, has negotiated with Tehran to allow legitimate civilian nuclear power development in Iran while preventing a spinoff of technology that could produce a bomb. The United States contends Iran has covert ambitions for a bomb, which Iran denies.

She also predicted that the United States has sufficient support at the United Nations nuclear watchdog agency to send Iran before the Security Council for possible sanctions. The International Atomic Energy Agency meets on Nov. 24, but a deal ahead of that date could avert a vote.

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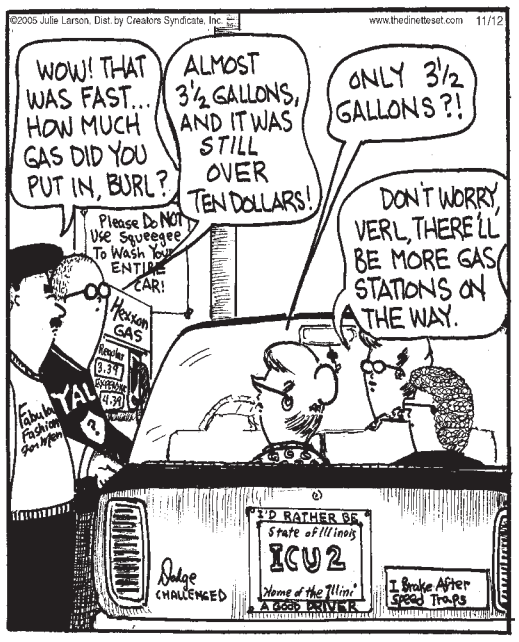


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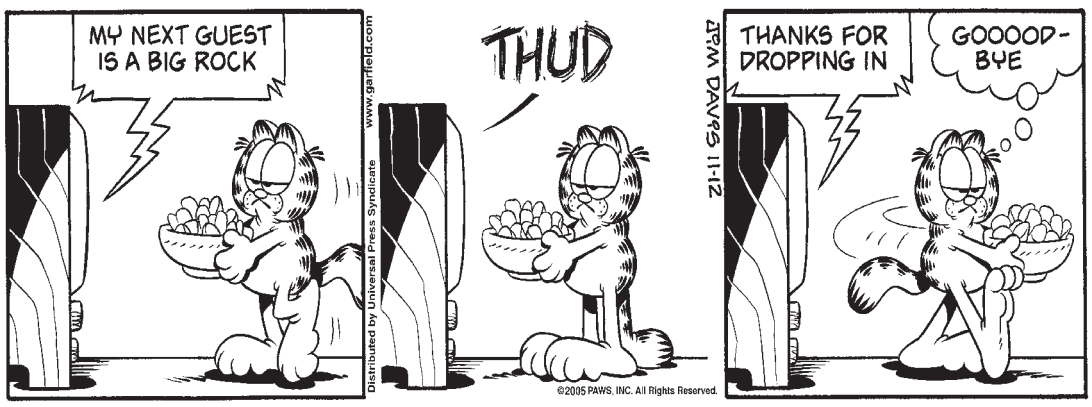
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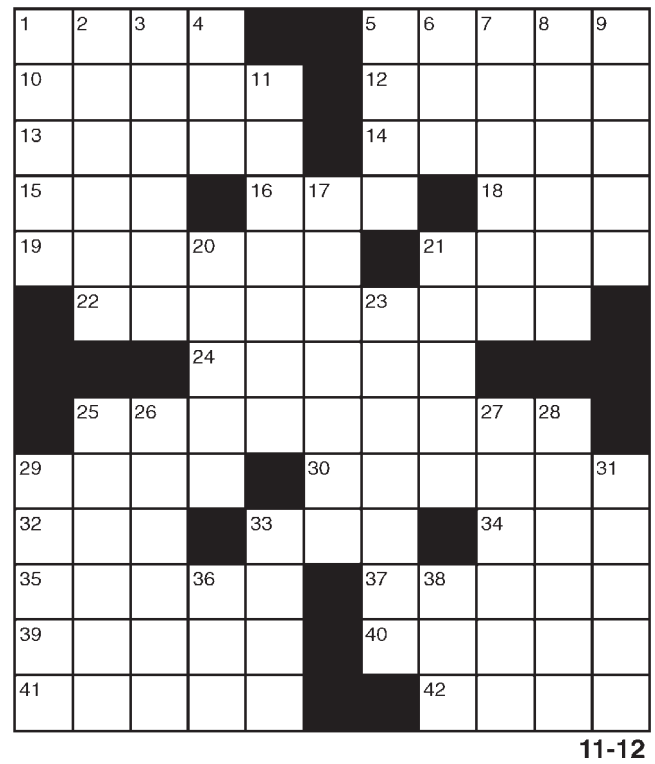
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36 Moonshine holder
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Vacation Rentals
ApartmentsCondos for Rent
Houses for Rent
Roomates
Commercial Lease
Real Estate
Real Estate Loans
Storage Space
Vehicles for Sale
Massage
Services
Computer Services
Attorney Services
Business Opportunities
Yard Sales
Health and Beauty
Fitness
Wealth and Success
Lost and Found
Personals
Obituaries

Employment

ADVERTISING SALES

Work with clients to figure out their message, package it cleverly, get results. Must be persistent and willing to make the calls, knock on doors, network fiercely. One third selling, one third PR and Marketing, one third keeping yourself organized. This can be fun for the right person, misery for the wrong person. Front loaded commission program enables you to start making money right away, if you have what it takes. Great long term potential for the right personality. Energetic office full of resources to help you grow as a professional. Must be a self starter, high energy and computer literate. Send resume and cover letter to ross@smdp.com

HR/ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Our Santa Monica branch is looking for an adm. assistant to join our team!! Primary job duties include answering/screening phone-calls, taking applicants through our registration process and ensuring hiring paperwork is complete. Positive attitude is a must!! This job is a temp-to-hire position starting at $12/50/hr. If interested, e-mail resume to jessicak@firstcallstaff.com.

Employment

Aquatic Fitness

AQUATIC FITNESS – Swim & Snorkel, a fast growing retail specialty store business is looking for a Second Key Holder/Assistant Manager for our Santa Monica location. Candidate should have: strong customer service background, staff leadership and supervisory skills, effective merchandising techniques, good communication skills, and the ability to meet the store's sales and budgetary goals.

3 to 5 years preferably in retail; supermarket, luxury or service business.

To apply please email resume to richardoyama@verizon.net

BOOKKEEPING SERVICES for the small business owner who needs only part-time help. Experienced 10+ years, excellent references (310) 435-3989

CUSTOMER SERVICE
Westwood non-profit organization needs people with good phone skills to contact former donors and ask for contributions. Temporary assignment. Starts November 15th. Hours are 4-9 pm, Sun-Thurs. $10/hr. Call (310) 453-4289 **Barrington Staffing**

Employment

Career Opportunity for Horticulture Technician.
Interiorscape Company specializing in professional offices and high-end residential is looking for extraordinary individual. Need to love plants and interact with clients with personality and professionalism. Have to be physically fit, strong, motivated, very attentive to detail. Will need car and a smile to travel to accounts in Santa Monica, downtown Los Angeles and Sherman Oaks. Call (310) 397-2466

CASHIER FOR gas station. Customer service, friendly. Call for more information (310) 498-7910.

CASHIER/RETAIL SALES
Seeking energetic individuals. F/T or P/T, including Sat. Some experience, a plus. Will train. Apply in person: Bourget Bros. 1636 11th St. Santa Monica, CA 90404

MEDICAL CONSULTANTS
Elicit med Hx, conduct body tour w/ Pt using Scans to show anatomy and prelim findings, analyze results, Snd prelim findings to Radiologist. Req MS in Physiology/Anatomy, Pathology, MD, or equiv. Send Res. to Functional Restoration Medical Center (FRMC), 450 N. Roxbury Drive, Suite #100, Beverly Hills, CA 90210 or Fx to: (310) 432-2882

CUSTOMER SERVICE order taker needed for SM messenger service. M-F 10am-2pm $10/hr. Must type 35 wpm. Call (310) 500-5797.

Employment

ACCOUNTING

Local municipality seeking an Accountant with degree + 3 years experience as an accountant. $16/hr.

Call 310 453-4289
Barrington Staffing

CLERICAL

Staff Assistant needed by SM municipality. Course work + 2 -3 years of previous clerical experience. Some contact with clients. $12/hr.

Call 310 453-4289
Barrington Staffing

★ ACTIVISTS ★

20 Petitioners wanted. No experience necessary. Flexible hours. Up to $200/day. First call (310) 281-7529. Additional questions: (310) 412-2450.

COOPPORTUNITY-Natural Grocer-Deli Clerk- P/T poss F/T.Eves/wknds. Apply at 1525 Broadway, SM 90404

Employment

★ ADVERTISING SALES ★

Seeking: *Self-Motivated, Energetic, Experienced Professionals.*
Well established Co.
50+ years in L.A.
• High Commissions • Paid Weekly • Leads Furnished
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Call: **Paul 213-251-9100, Ex-25** and/or Please visit:
www.theglobalmediagroup.com/jobinfo.htm

COOPPORTUNITY- Natural Grocer- Courtesy Clerk (Bagging Asst-F/T). Apply at 1525 Broadway, SM 90404.

COUNTER HELP
Krispy Kreme Doughnuts seeking highly motivated and super friendly individuals for work at our fast-paced environment. F/T and P/T shifts available. Apply in person, 6am-10pm: 1231 Wilshire Blvd., SM.

COUNTER HELP needed. Cafe near 3rd Street Promenade on Broadway. Must be experienced. Apply afternoons in person. 215 Broadway, SM. (310) 396-9898.

EXPERIENCED APARTMENT maintenance man. F/T, benefits included. (310) 394-3017, fax (310) 451-1628 SM Christian Towers

Employment

DENTAL FRONT office and back office with experience. Santa Monica dental office FT/PT (310) 393-9706.

FIT FEMALE MODEL WANTED FOR FIGURE DRAWING BY ARTIST. No experience necessary call. (818) 501-0266

GAS STATION boat dock workers at Marina Del Rey Harbor. Call Randy or Sue (310) 823-2444.

HIGH END Santa Monica Tire Shop needs full time:
***Tire Technician**
***Service Writer**
***Mechanic**
Great Pay and benefits. English a must. (310) 393-0767

IMMEDIATE POSITIONS available in the housekeeping department of St. John's Health Center. All shifts available, PT/ FT. Hospital housekeeping preferred. Call (310) 829-8431 for interview.

IMMEDIATE POSITIONS available in the housekeeping department of Century City Doctors Hospital. All shifts available, PT/ FT. Hospital housekeeping preferred. Call (310) 557-7785 for interview.

NEED EXPERIENCED CareGivers, CNA's, HHA's for At-home living assistance. Flexible Hours. Call 310-576-6787

JOB FAIR

HOTEL Angeleno
Los Angeles





Joie de Vivre Hospitality, a San Francisco based company, is expanding into Southern California and will debut its newest boutique hotel with the grand opening of the Hotel Angeleno in February 2006. Located at the crossroads of the prestigious Brentwood and Bel Air, the Hotel Angeleno is nestled amidst the best of the West Side – just minutes away from Hollywood, Beverly Hills, and Santa Monica. The landmark circular design of this dramatic modern era icon sets the tone for the cool, yet classic look.

Joie de Vivre Hospitality is marked by an enthusiastic and vibrant corporate culture. The staff-authored mission statement, "Creating opportunities to celebrate the joy of life," conveys our company's culture. A combination of creative spirit, sound business principles, and a commitment to employee-driven decisions is the foundation for Joie de Vivre's plan for continued growth.

Benefits: medical, dental, vision, life insurance, 401k, vacation and sick pay

Positions available: Front Desk, Bell Desk, Guest Services, Shuttle Drivers, Sales Coordinator, Room Attendants and Telephone Operators

Please visit us at our Job Fair, November 30th, 2005 from 9am – 6pm

Skirball Cultural Center
Haas Conference Center
2701 North Sepulveda Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90049

Appointment is necessary to attend the job fair.

Please call 310.476.6411

www.hotelangeleno.com

CLASSIFIEDS

Employment

NEW TAXI COMPANY needs day and night dispatchers and drivers. Call Don (310) 466-4063.

NOW HIRING
Sexy upscale young girls for high class escort agency. $500-$1500 daily. (310) 925-8244

PART-TIME CASHIER for a hardware store. Call Veronica at (310) 395-1158.

PAYROLL CLERK/ AP CLERK
An electric company in the Culver City has two immediate openings in their Finance department!! Both positions are temp-to-hire and pay $12-$13/hr. If you are experienced in handling payroll or have a background in Accounts Payable, please contact us immediately!! (310) 264-9914.

PERSON TO learn welding and/or sheet metal assembly. SM (310) 587-1113.

PHONE ACTRESS, work from home, make your own hours, perfect for night owl, P/T. Good conversationalists. Leave message: Donna (310) 459-7762

RETAIL
Crossroads Trading Co.

Asst. Manager FT
Floor Supervisor FT
Sales/Buyers FT & PT

Fun buy-sell-trade clothing co. in Santa Monica seeks fashion-obsessed team w/ exc. people skills & "can-do" attitude. Asst. Mgr. must have 1 yr retail mgmt. exper.
APPLY IN PERSON: 1449B 4th St., SM or email resume to fs18mgr@crossroadstrading.com
INCLUDE RESUME IN THE BODY OF YOUR EMAIL. ATTACHMENTS WILL NOT BE OPENED

SALES
SALES of cruise and tour packages. Paid training, flex 30 hrs/ week. Base + comm. No cold calls. Near LAX (310) 649-7171.

SANTA MONICA Plastics company is hiring f/t sales person, no plastics experience required, will train, good with math, call Ralph 310-450-7419

SOCIAL SERVICES: Community based program in SM for adults with D-D. Mon-Fri 9am-3pm. Experience preferred. Excellent benefits (310) 457-2026.

TAXI SERVICE NOW HIRING experienced drivers and dispatchers, must know Santa Monica area. Clean DMV and Professional appearance. Bring DMV printout to 2418 Wilshire for application.

WELL ESTABLISHED Westside architectural firm is seeking a motivated, responsible person for full-time secretarial position. Job responsibilities include reception, good telephone and Internet research skills, must be proficient in Outlook, Word, Excel and Access. Other diverse responsibilities include booking travel reservations, ordering office supplies, errands, etc. Submit resume via email: office@dbbarchitects.com or Fax to: (310) 559-1442 Telephone: (310) 559-1332

WestsideRentals.com looking for FT/PT to work in SM office computer, phone skills nec. 10—12 hour weekday/weekend shifts. Email resume to Kevin@westsiderentals.com.

YARDPERSON
F/T, including Sat. Will train. Lifting req'd. Apply in person: Bourget Bros. 1636 11th St, Santa Monica, CA 90404

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SPA/HOT TUB 2005 Model. Neck Jets. Therapy seat. Warranty. Never used. Can deliver. Worth $5750, sell for $1750 (310) 479-3054

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TOYOTA SANTA MONICA

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Certified, Extra Clean, CALL
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Loaded w/extras
$2,850

'96 FORD TAURUS GL
4 Door, Full Power
VIN 207901 $1,850

'95 SATURN 4DR SLI
Low Mileage, One Owner
VIN 328418 $2,500

'98 CHRYSLER SEBRING CONV.
Full Power
VIN 286770 $6,500

(310) 395-3712

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Rock, Blues, Jazz Fusion
Bachelors Degree Musicians Institute
(310) 403-8954.

EXPERIENCED CREDENTIALED teacher teaching math/science middle school through high school offers private tutoring. Available weekends (310) 210-1604.

Employment Wanted

FRENCH NATIVE man looking for a part time job through November. Study all propositions. (310) 663-9379

For Rent

1 BEDROOM in Beverly Hills Adjacent. A steal! Will go fast, call now. 1 year lease no pets, no smoking. $1345/mo. (310) 396-4443 x 2002, ellynesis.com

10825 BLIX STREET, #209. Away from the hustle and bustle of the city yet just 30 minutes to downtown. The property features a sparkling pool, gated parking and a tranquil courtyard view. One year lease. No pets. $1650/mo. (310) 396-4443

119 N. CULVER AVE #A. QUIET APARTMENT conveniently located close to commercial and transportation hubs, very well kept building. One year lease. No pets. Section 8 accepted. $745/mo. Will go quickly! Call now! (310) 396-4443

121 N. Culver Ave #A. Quiet apartment conveniently located close to commercial and transportation hubs. One year lease. No pets. Section 8 accepted. $900/mo. (310) 396-4443

1423 24TH ST., UNIT A. Santa Monica bungalow in delightful garden setting. Close to medical facilities and commercial centers yet located on a quiet tree-lined cul-de-sac. Very nicely appointed apartment constructed with eco-friendly technology. 1 year lease. No pets or smokers. $1495/mo. (310) 396-4443 x 2002. ellynesis.com

1737 BUTLER Ave. Spacious 2 bed 1.5 bath close to commercial and transportation hubs. One year lease. No pets. Available November 15th $1850/mo. (310) 396-4443 x 2002 ellynesis.com

2476 PURDUE Ave. Quiet one bedroom upper in West LA. Fresh paint, clean carpet, stove, fridge. One year lease. Available Nov. 15th $995/mo. Call (310) 396-4443 x 2002. ellynesis.com

30 HORIZON Ave., #6. Venice Beach, studio apartment 1/2 block from the beach, new paint, very clean, large closet. One year lease. No pets. Available NOW $950/mo. Call (310) 877-3074. ellynesis.com

349 5TH Ave. Quaint, Venice bungalow in charming garden setting. Very private and quiet. Available November 15th. Just $1850/mo. Call (310) 396-4443 x 2002 ellynesis.com

354 RENNIE Ave. Beautiful 2 Bedroom apartment close to Beach and Venice commercial centers. Very spacious unit with lots of light. Available November 15th. $1800/mo. Call (310) 396-4443 x 2002 ellynesis.com

3562 MENTONE Ave., #5. Spacious two-story townhouse with patio. Located on a quiet street in Palms. One year lease. No pets. Available November 15th $1695/mo. Call (310) 396-4443 x 2002 ellynesis.com

3743 MCLAUGHLIN Ave. Mar Vista Large 1bd, 1ba. New carpet, new blinds, new paint. Stove & fridge. 1 car parking. 1 year lease, No pets. No smoking. $1095/mo. Call (310) 396-4443 x 2002.

615 N. ROSSMORE AVE #312. Just renovated building! Prime Location! Walk to shops and restaurants...Must see to believe! 1 year lease, no pets, no smoking. $995/mo (310) 396-4443

647 N. Hayworth. Spacious, lower rear, WeHo apt., W/D, central A/C, stove, dishwasher, gas fireplace, CA building & parking, access to yard, blinds, balcony, luxury for only $1345. (310) 804-7460

7010 LANEWOOD AVE #306. Large hollywood unit in gated building located just off Sunset and La Brea. This is a quiet building which recently received new plumbing from the main to the faucets. The unit is freshly painted and is very clean. 1 year lease, no pets. $1050/mo. (310) 396-4443

932 N. Wilcox Ave, #1. 9 unit complex in a fantastic Hollywood location. Spacious apartment close to transportation and commercial centers. Great price at $1000/mo. Call (310) 396-4443 x 2002

BEAUTIFUL TREE lined street. Near parks and recreation. Quiet, well kept area. A jewel. 1 year lease. No pets, no smoking. $995/mo. ellynesis.com, (310) 396-4443 x 2002

BEAUTIFUL, SPACIOUS apartment in the heart of LA. This apartment features great access to commercial and retail centers. One year lease. No pets. Section 8 accepted. $850/mo. (310) 396-4443

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1214 Idaho 2+1
South of Montana
Like new, $2150/mo

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N. VENICE Beach. Sunny Large 1 bedroom plus loft apartment @ 14 Ozone Ave. 2 balconies and unbelievable ocean views. 1/2 block to the beach with garage parking. $2250/mo. 1 year lease, no pets, no smoking (310) 466-9256

For Rent

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RENTALS AVAILABLE
NO PETS ALLOWED

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928 4th St. $995
Lower single, parking, stove, Fridge, new carpet

507 Raymond $1050
Upper single, fully remodeled, Parking, stove, fridge

922 6th St. $1500
Upper 1 bed, granite counters, Updated, parking, laundry room

WEST L.A./WESTWOOD

10669 Eastborne, Westwood, $1250
Upper 1 bed, hardwood floors, Stove, fridge, parking, laundry

10615-19 Wilkins, WW, $1275 -1300
Lower 1 bed, (2 units avail) Hardwood floors, stove, laundry

21 S. Venice, $1500 - $1600
Upper & lower, 1 bed, steps to the beach Gas stove, parking, rear units

1150 - 1156 Venice, $1600 - $1650
4 completely remodeled one bedrms, Top of the line appliances, cabinets & more

10611 Ayres, $2400
3 bed, 2 bath top unit, duplex, New carpet & blinds, shared backyard

FOR MORE LISTINGS GO TO WWW.ROQUE-MARK.COM

ECHO PARK adjacent. Huge rooms, quiet, off street apartment. Must see to believe. 1 year lease. No pets, no smoking. $2200/mo. (310) 396-4443 x 2002, ellynesis.com

FREE RENTAL Lists & No Fee Rentals. Sullivan-Dituri Company. 2111 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90403.

LA GROVE area: 428 N. Orange Grove 1+1 $1100/mo. Stove, fridge, blinds, a lot of closet space, hardwood floors, laundry, no pets (310) 578-7512.

MID WILSHIRE adjacent. Great location, close to everything. 1 year lease. No pets, no smoking. $1495/mo. Don't wait, call now. (310) 396-4443 x 2002 ellynesis.com

QUIET APARTMENT conveniently located close to commercial and transportation hubs. Hardwood floors, brand new stove, approx. 750 sq.ft. One year lease. No pets. Section 8 accepted. $1150/mo. (310) 396-4443

SANTA MONICA $1100.00. 1 bdrm, 1 bath. Appliances, parking, NO Pets. 2535 Kansas Ave., #111. Mgr: #101.

SANTA MONICA $1125/mo. 1bdrm/1bath, spacious courtyard apartment. Carpet, parking, laundry, dishwasher, stove, blinds. (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA $1200/mo 1bdrm/1bath. Flexible lease. Carpet. 2 car, gated parking, pool, laundry. (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA $1700/mo 2bdrm/1bath. No pets. Garden setting in Sunset Park. Carpet/ tile. (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

For Rent

SANTA MONICA $1295/mo 1bdrm/1bath. Hardwood floors, upper, laundry. Quiet neighborhood, custom tile, remodeled. (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA $1325/mo 2bdrm/1bath. Carpets, upper corner, parking included, stove. No pets. (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA $1400. North of Wilshire. Furnished, 1 bed/1 bath upstairs in duplex. Sun room overlooking garden. 1 year lease. No pets. (310) 837-3022.

SANTA MONICA $1600.00. 2 bdrms, 1 bath. Appliances, Parking, NO Pets. 2535 Kansas Ave., #209. Mgr: #101.

SANTA MONICA $1600/mo 2bdrm/2bath. 2 car parking, laundry, carpet and tile floors, dishwasher, (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA $2395/mo 3bdrm/2bath. Upper, stove, dishwasher, balcony, hardwood floors, parking, great location. (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA $675/mo bachelor/1bath. Available now! No pets. One year lease. Laundry, carpets. (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA $875/mo studio/1bath. Bungalow style studio. Parking, separate kitchen, closet/ storage. (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA $940.16/mo. 1bdrm/1bath. Hardwood floors, laundry, parking. Near SMC and beach. (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA 1244 11th St., #H. 2+1.5 large lower. Stove, carpets, blinds, laundry, parking, no pets. $1600, $300 off move-in. (310) 393-6322.

SANTA MONICA: 1453 3rd St. 1BD/ 1BA $1,800 Live on the Promenade with ocean views, Hardwood floors, ceramic tile, washer/dryer (310) 916-8580

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SUNNY, VENICE beach apartment 1 block from the beach. Hardwood floors and full kitchens. Clean, controlled access building. 1 year lease, no pets, no smoking. $975/mo (310) 396-4443

VENICE BEACH, available month to month till 5/31/06. Great office space located 1 block from beach and 1/2 block from Windward Avenue. Included are all utilities, approx 365 sq.ft. 1 room with common area bathroom, concrete floors, exposed beamed ceilings. $850/mo (310) 396-4443

WLA: 2BDRM/1BATH. $1600/mo. Great location, new carpet, tile, clean, quiet, parking, patio. Brenda (310) 991-2694.

Houses For Rent

SANTA MONICA, Charming 2+1+den, hardwood floors, light and bright, big fenced in backyard. Pets ok. $3500/mo. (310) 486-8766

Venice Craftsman featured in LA Mag. Fountain Garden, Fireplace, Washer, Dryer, Stove 3BR, 2BA, 2 Car Garage $3,500 no pets. (310) 418-5900

WESTCHESTER: 7825 Yorktown Place. 4bdrm/ 2bath house. Cul-de-sac. $2995/mo. Stove, dishwasher, washer/ dryer hook-ups, fireplace, patio, small backyard, utilities, cat ok with deposit. (310) 578-7512

Commercial Lease

600sf office for lease. Adjacent Beverly Hills. Shared restrooms, conference. $1,100/mo. Call Donna (310) 837-3606.

DOWNTOWN SANTA MONICA Private Office Approx. 280 sq/ft, Windows/ A/C, 310-394-3645

CLASSIFIEDS

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Christina S. Porter
Vice President

1,164 sf of creative office. Newly remodeled. Turn Key.

Roll up door. Phone system, furniture included. $3.00pkg

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$1.00 PER SQ. FT.

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SANTA MONICA 1452 2nd Street. Very charming building, small offices. Between $700/mo & $1200/mo. Includes utilities & cleaning. (310) 614-6462

SMALL OFFICE suites available for lease in WLA. 400-575 sqft, $1.95 per sqft. Call (310) 826-5505.

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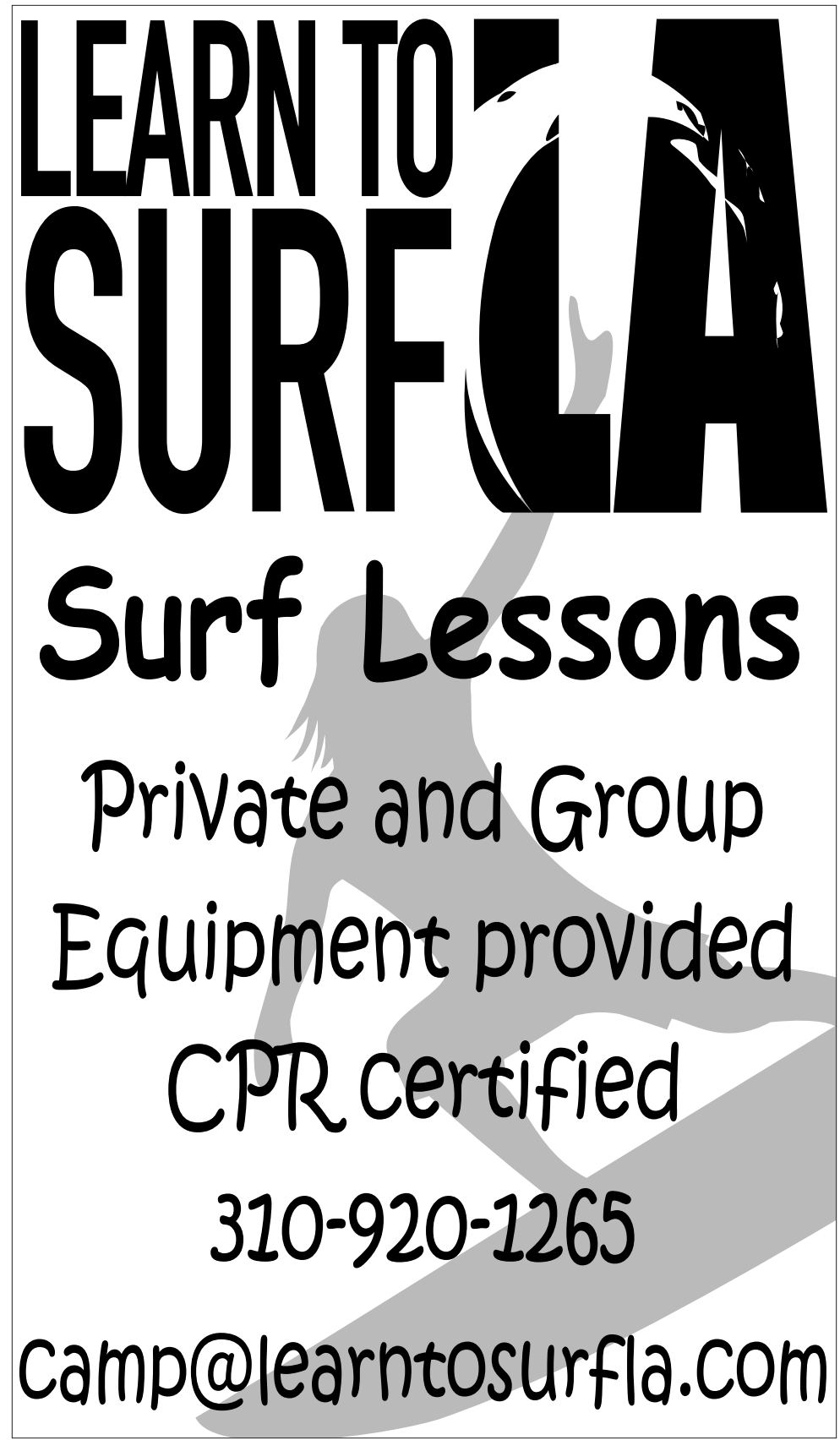
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 2419412 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as All Stars Academy, 11503 Menlo Ave., #8, Hawthorne, CA 90250. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Tina Maria Williams, 11503 Menlo Ave., #8, Hawthorne, CA 90250 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: Tina Williams
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 10/06/05. NOTICE: THIS

DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 11/5/2005, 11/12/2005, 11/19/2005, 11/26/2005

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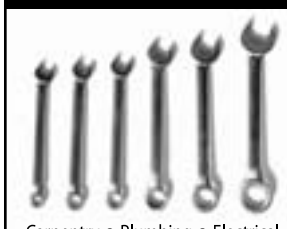
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